

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Feminism is one of the significant issues in human's life. According to Brooker, Selden, and Widdowson (2005), feminism is a concept in which women struggle to resist patriarchal culture in order to reach gender equality. Therefore, it is necessary for people to understand feminism since they are still children. According to Vandergrift (1993), children should be familiar with feminism. Besides, as what is stated by Arnot (2007), feminism needs to be built and introduced in primary and secondary school. Further, according to Gordon in Angelides (2004), without building feminism among children, it will raise possibility of children's sexual abuse. Therefore, feminism should be introduced to children as early as possible.

However, children still face gender inequality due to lack of understanding of feminism. According to UNCEF (2002, in Tuwor & Sossou, 2008), girls are the parties of 120 million children in developing world who mostly never go to school. Meanwhile, according to Tuwor and Sossou (2008), basic education is a part of human right. Therefore, this issue brings influences to gender equality and women's empowerment (Tuwor & Sossou, 2008). According to Tuwor and Sussou, this issue is caused by socio-cultural factor, in which society still have tradition of supporting male authority and superiority, so women are subordinated and oppressed. Besides, according to Acker and Oatley (1993), feminism issue is also faced by educated female students, in which they do not have opportunity in

occupational fields which require knowledge of mathematics, physical sciences, engineering, and computer studies. The root of this problem is that female students have lack of self-confidence for taking the chance in those fields (Acker & Oatley, 1993). Then, According to a research by Rina (2017), In Indonesia, based on the data from Central Bureau of Statistics, the average number of girls is less than that of boys in the field of education. It could be proven by the fact in which the number of illiterate girls is three times the number of illiterate boys (Rina, 2017). It indicates that girls in Indonesia encounter gender inequality in the field of education. Further, not only in education concern, Indonesian girls, especially girls in Bali, still encounter gender inequality in the field on inheritance. It was found by Sukerti and Ariani (2014) that Balinese girls do not have an opportunity to be heirs, while Balinese boys do. It indicates that Balinese girls still face gender inequality. Therefore, consciousness in terms of the importance of gender equality should be built since children are still young.

In order to raise children's consciousness of feminism, according to Mahoney (1996), teachers are parties who play important role in helping their students make changes of gender inequality by introducing feminism. Feminism can be introduced through children literature because, according to Hunt (2005), children literature reflects real life, which involves literary and cultural studies. Besides, children literature also brings good impacts for students, including those who are in EFL class. According to Muhammed (2013), studying literature in EFL class brings advantages because by using literature, language is emphasized as a part of human's heritage, and it can also be used to interpret human's thought. Besides, according to Muhammed (2013), teaching literature can facilitate

students to learn figurative language, for daily language is highly figurative. Further, as what is stated by Muhammed (2013), literature helps students in EFL class rules of target language, such as sentence structure, tenses, and vocabulary.

According to Florack (2014), in order to support literature learning, film is a good media for students to learn. He states that film can raise children's literacy level for it becomes a media that emerge children's awareness and understanding. He also states that based on previous researches, the use of film can increase pupil's excitement, engagement, critical understanding, and written communication. Besides, according to Ismaili (2013), film provides visual images, color, movement and sound which can stimulate students' interest. Further, Chen (2012) states that by using children's literature, such as viewing films and discussing fantasy novel, children can increase their reading comprehension. Moreover, children's literature and film with economy of words, stunning illustrations, and moving plot, can be an alternative of ELT textbook, so children can learn a lot about language skills and different cultures.

Related to the existence of film which helps students in learning, there is Disney which has become one of the best film productions in the world. Tanner, Haddock, Zimmerman, and Lund (2003, in Johnson, 2015) state that Disney Film supports children's media, so it brings significant influence for children's life. Besides, according to Giroux (1999), Disney Films provides fantasy world which increase children's interest, and it also contains cultural and social messages which are good for children. One of Disney Films which is good for children is *Maleficent* directed by Robert Stromberg (2014). This film tells about a fairy, living in Moors, who was pure-hearted, and she fell in love with a human, named

Stefan. However, there was a king, named King Henry, who attempted to destroy Moors, so Maleficent resisted him. When King Henry asked the populace to kill Maleficent, Stefan went to Moors and cut Maleficent's wings as an evident for the king that he had killed her. Therefore, Stefan became the king. Because of Stefan's betrayal, Maleficent made revenge by cursing Stefan's daughter, named Aurora, to be in deep sleep when she turned 16, unless she got a kiss from a true love. As Aurora grew up, she called Maleficent "Fairy God Mother", which made her want to break the curse, but she failed. When Aurora turned 16, the curse truly made her in a deep sleep. Even the boy who loved her failed to break the curse. Then, Maleficent kissed her, which made her awaken. This indicates that Maleficent was Aurora's a true love through her motherly feeling. Eventually, the peace was back and Aurora was crowned to be the queen of Moors.

Through the traits showed by Maleficent, it can be considered that this character has feminist traits, especially liberal feminism. Liberal feminism, according to Tong (2009), focuses on how women get equal right and respect as men do, so women have to be rational and independent. In this film, Maleficent's struggle shows that she attempted to be a rational and independent woman. The feminism reflected by Maleficent is good to be introduced to children. Since *Maleficent* is a Disney film which exists among children, deep analysis of feminism needs to be conducted toward this film. Based on the above background, this study aims at analyzing Maleficent's liberal feminist characterizations.

1.2 Problem Identification

Feminism is a significant issue because it deals with gender equality. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce feminism to children since they are still young. However, many children still face gender inequality. Female children in developing countries are often found uneducated. Besides, female students are found unconfident in learning mathematics, physical sciences, engineering, and computer studies, so they have lack of opportunity in occupational fields. Therefore, children's consciousness of feminism should be built by teachers. In raising students' feminism consciousness, teachers can use children literature. Literature brings significance for students, especially for ELF students. Moreover, film, as a media for children's literature can help children to be good learners. The feature of film can raise children's interest and excitement in learning language. Disney film is a production which is familiar among children's life. It also brings good influence for children. One of Disney Films that is good for Children is *Maleficent*. Apart from the strength of attracting children, this film also contains feminist issues, especially liberal feminism, reflected by the main character, Maleficent. Maleficent's struggle introduces children to good traits of being strong and independent. Because feminism is a significant issue since it focuses on gender equality, people need to raise children's awareness of feminism through this movie. Therefore, this study focuses on investigating liberal feminism reflected by the characterizations the main character, Maleficent.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study is limited to the characterizations of Maleficent, as the main character in Disney's Film *Maleficent* directed by Robert Stromberg (2014), and the characterizations will be analyzed in order to identify the liberal feminist characterization reflected by Maleficent. Therefore, the scope of this study is the characterizations of Maleficent as a liberal feminist in the Disney's Film *Maleficent* directed by Robert Stromberg (2014).

1.4 Statements of Research Question

Based on the research background, there are two research questions needed to be answered by this study, namely:

- a. What are the characterizations of Maleficent in Disney's Film *Maleficent*?
- b. What feminist traits are reflected by Maleficent's characterizations viewed from liberal feminism?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of research question, there are two objectives of this study, namely:

- a. To investigate the characterizations of Maleficent in Disney's Film *Maleficent*.
- b. To analyze feminist traits which are reflected by Maleficent's characterizations viewed from liberal feminism.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1.6.1 Liberal Feminism

According to Tong (2009), liberal feminism is a perspective of equalizing men and women's rights, such as civil, educational, occupational, and reproductive rights. In this research, liberal feminism refers to how the equal rights are maintained by Maleficent.

1.6.2 Character

According to Gill (1995), character is a literary creation which has a certain identity viewed from its appearance, conversation, action, name, and thought. In this research, character refers to a literary creation who inhabits the story in Maleficent Movie.

1.6.3 Movie

According to Bordwell and Thompson (2008), movie is a moving picture which communicates information and ideas by showing ways of life that might not be known by many people. In this research, movie refers to a moving picture containing of a story which bring moral value, especially value of feminism for the viewers.

1.7 Significances of the Study

1.7.1 Theoretical Significances

1.7.1.1 Feminism

This study is expected to contribute knowledge about feminism for people in Indonesia. Gamble (2006) states that feminism is a belief in which patriarchal culture should be diminished by women's struggle in maintaining gender equality. The previous study by Ariani (2017) focuses on analyzing Elizabeth Bennet's Liberal Feminism in a novel entitled *Pride and Prejudice*. Then, through this research, it is expected to give contribution of liberal feminism in a film, which can encourage people to maintain gender equality.

1.7.1.2 Film Studies

This study is expected to contribute to film analysis through its elements. According to Bordwell and Thompson (2008), elements of film include narrative, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, editing, and sound. The previous study conducted by Galla (2018) reveals post feminism in the movie *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) through the *mise-en-scene* and cinematography. Artini (2019) also conduct of film analysis of *Finding Dory* (2016), which focused on identifying values of character education through the narrative, *mise-en-scen*, cinematography, and sound. Then, this study is expected to contribute further film analysis through the narrative, *mise-en-scen*, cinematography, and sound by using textual analysis and Tong's Liberal Feminism.

1.7.1.3 Language Learning

This study is expected to give knowledge development in language learning, because film, as a kind of literary work, can contribute to students' language learning. By using film, teachers can encourage students to be interested in language learning and to improve their grammar, vocabulary mastery, and pronunciation.

1.7.2 Practical Significances

1.7.2.1 For Students of English as A Foreign Language

This study is expected to be useful for EFL students in understanding film analysis by using feminist approach. Firstly, students have to be familiar with feminism. Based on the implication of the research conducted by Galla (2018), when students understand about gender equality, it can prevent them from bullying each other regarding gender difference. Then through this study, it is expected that students can avoid oppression among them after understanding about liberal feminism contained in the film. When students can comprehend the liberal feminism in this film, it is expected that they can understand more about how film can be analyzed by using feminist approach. Therefore, it is expected that this study can contribute reference for EFL students for conducting another study of film and feminism.

1.7.2.2 For Teachers and Lecturers

This study is expected to be useful for teachers and lecturers in determining film as a learning media. According to Ismaili (2013), the visual images of film can attract students, so there will be more student-teacher and student-student discussion, which indicates that film can make students more

active. Therefore, through this study, it is expected that teachers and lecturers can consider film for teaching students. Besides, it is also expected that this study can make teachers and lecturers understand how feminism is taught through a film, therefore they can teach students by involving feminism value.

1.7.2.3 For Women in Society

This study is expected to be useful for society in building understanding about gender equality. According to Wollstonecraft in Tong (2009), women deserve equal treatment for being rationale and independent as men do. Therefore, it is expected that this study can build women's understanding about the importance of the concept of feminism, so they can struggle in raising gender equality in society. For Indonesian and Balinese women, it is expected that this study could build understanding about gender equality among them, so they can maintain their right as a human, including right in the field of education and inheritance.

1.7.2.4 For Other Researchers

This study is expected to be useful for other researchers for conducting other researches concerning film analysis and liberal feminism. The previous study by Galla (2018) concerns on an analysis of a film entitled *Beauty and The Beast* through Belle's postfeminist characterizations. Besides, liberal feminism has been analyzed by Ariani (2017) through the characterization of Elizabeth Bennet in Jane Austen's novel entitled *Pride and Prejudice*. Then, this study is expected to give information about how to conduct a study by using textual analysis in analyzing film through Tong's Liberal Feminism.