

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the explanation related to the background of the study, question of study, objective of the study, significance of the study, and scope of the study.

### 1.1 Background of Study

Literature is a way to express human feelings through a composition of words and has a lot of kinds. From time to time, literature is getting developed through human struggle and developing into something new. Literature can be interpreted as 'imaginative' writing fictionally and not literary true (Eagleton, 1996). Junaid (2017) stated that literature is included into an art because it is the transformation of the artists' ideas. Literature is a written expression that is aesthetic or artistic which is different from the texts of everyday use (Klarer, 1998). Literature is an art that can be enjoyed by people around the world, even children can enjoy the literature itself.

Children at their age are in the progress of looking for a figure as their role model in their life. Even though school has a main role in developing their character, but their parents have more impacts on their social, moral, behavioral, and academic development (Berkowitz & Bier, 2005). Their parents can be their role models as they live their life, but the fictional character that they saw from their books, television, and others can create a representation of what they are going to be and imagining themselves as in the character represented. A fictional

character that shows good qualities and behavior such as honesty, bravery, creativity, and kindness is able to teach girls for having these same qualities in themselves (Melnick, 2002).

Children are still in the stage of learning and playing. It is more emphasize about the things that they have received from the books they read and movies that they watch which has good quality. According to Junaid (2017) children are different from the adult in experience and in the degree. They are not a little version of the adult, because of that the children's literature for children is supposed to be provided the same enjoyment and concept with the literature that the adult has (Junaid, 2017). Hunt (1999) in his book stated that children will only choose the book that suitable with their interest and fitted to their reading ability.

According to Brown and Tomlinson (2005), children's literature supposed to have a good quality of trade of books for children which covering interesting and relevant topics through prose and poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Children's literature is an obvious point on how the theory faces real-life (Hunt, 1999). As literature and real life cannot be separated, this is also how the children saw things happen in the books they read, with the reality that they face. Literature develops to be more modern from time to time, so does the children's literature. It is then developed into movie as both adults and children can enjoy visually. There are lots of movies that intended to be seen by children, such as movies that produce by Disney.

Disney as a film production company is already well known as the producer of lots of famous characters and well known by children in the world

(Tonn, 2008). The movies released by Disney have already seen by millions of people around the world. One of the most recognizable movie series that have released by Disney is the Disney Princess series. The Disney Princess series mostly enjoy by the female children who was dreaming about a life of a princess in their real life. The princess in the Disney movie is a typical or preliminary model of a dream life of a girl who craves for the beauty of princess, romantic love story with a brave dashing prince, and living a prosperous life. In the plot story of Disney Princess story, the entire princess has their own struggle and problems. By their kindhearted character and their desire they finally able to live in happy ending life.

Despite the stereotype of being a nice and sweet princess, there is another different story of a princess named *Merida* in the movie entitled *Brave*. The setting of the movie is taking place at the Scottish kingdom in a mythical time (IMDB, 2012). As a tradition in their family, the princess has to get married to the chosen prince. Unfortunately, Merida refused the tradition and her parents' order. From this scene, Merida started to show how the actual Merida behind her parents is. She is not a common princess that wants to be as what her parents expected. She started the action of taking claim of herself by winning the contest that her parents held. The refusing action of her destiny as a woman and her desire of making her own freedom makes an implication that she can be classified into a feminist.

A feminist thought sometimes is something unpredictable to be expected and classified. According to Gamble (2006) women are treated unequally by the society which is prioritizing the male viewpoints. Gamble (2006) also stated that

women here live in a society where the patriarchal paradigm has developed over time and it causes them to be someone that became everything, in which the men are not. Therefore at this condition, feminism is aiming to change this kind of situation. Rosemarie Tong in her book presented a complex explanation of a set label of feminist thought. There are 8 feminist thoughts that developed during the history, those are liberal feminist, radical feminist, Marxist/socialist feminist, psychoanalytic, care-focused, multicultural/global/colonial, eco-feminist, and postmodern/third-wave feminist (Tong, 2009).

The emergence of Feminism movements were happened around the world included in Indonesia. According to Budiman (2008), the development of political freedom was opened after the collapse of the new order in the reign of Suharto in 1998. Chaos happened in Indonesia which caused a lot of demonstration among the citizen of Indonesia to the government. In Februari 1998, an organization of woman, namely *Suara Ibu Peduli* (SIP) was demonstrated in the center of Jakarta to protest the government's failure about the availability of milk and the basic needs during the monetary crisis (Budiman, 2008). This movement made a big impact which attracted the international media's attention and gained lots of members (Budiman, 2008). Hence, the governments started to establish a ministry that in charge of women's empowerment and child protection (Hidayati, 2018).

Eventhough the position of women in Indonesia was already protected by the government with the founding of the ministry and law, there are several areas in which made the women's position still behind men (Surbakti & Devasahayam, 2015). The gap between Indonesian men and women was based on education, wages, and employment which based on gender inequalities (Surbakti &

Devasahayam, 2015). These findings made a conclusion that eventhough women had already given a specific ministry by the government, women's positions still behind men in society. Hence, the feminism theory is supposed to introduce to the children since in their young age. One of the way to introduce feminism theory to children is by inserting the theory through the movies which children as the main market of the movie as well in order to create a better future society for both men and women without the descrimination of gender.

If it is seen from how the experts classified the types of feminists, feminism theory seems like something that not belongs to a work of children literature. Based on this thought, people have to see to the other side of how the feminist theory comes to people moreover to the children. Vandergrift (1993) stated that the focus of the insertion of feminist theory is to make the children able to define themselves rather than defined by others. Based on what the statement state, the feminist theory that applied in children's literature is something that the children can assume as how they would define themselves in real life, so it can be something new in the realm of children. As feminism is applied on some children literature in a case to help children to define themselves, it shows on some Disney's movie as well.

Brave with its main character, that is Princess Merida shows how feminism is blended into a movie for children. In the movie itself, Merida showed a movement of rebellion against her parents. She refused to get married, and always want to train her archery skill which is not a common skill that a princess supposed to have. Merida decided to make her own path in her life and end up bringing chaos to her kingdom (IMDB, 2012). From this on, Merida tried to fix

her fault by herself. Merida with her strong determination is able to get her own fate.

There are some previous researches that conducted a research on *Brave* (2012) and also Merida. Some of the researches found that there are several education values that can be depicted by Merida and also the insertion of Feminist ideology. Morante (2016) and Morrison (2014) found that there are some feminist value in *Brave* (2012), meanwhile Arianty (2016) found that there are several education values that is depicted from *Brave* (2012). Morrison (2014) found that *Brave* (2012) presented a femnist theory in the movie, moreover in Merida as the main character of the movie. Based on these previous researches, this research wanted to find out the feminist traits of Merida in *Brave* (2012) by using the theory of Tong (2009). Merida in *Brave* (2012) showed her bravery, independence, and her desire to seek for a new identity and destiny as a princess of a kingdom. Therefore, she is classified as a liberal feminist based on the theory of Tong (2009).

The main character of the movie 'Brave' that is Princess Merida can be classified as a feminist by taking a look into her characterization. The characterization of Merida was used to identify Merida as a liberal feminist. Gill (2000) stated that characterization is how the character is created. Hence, by analyzing the characterization of Merida, the feminist traits depicted by Merida were able to be identified through her appearance, personality, and how the character interacted with another character. By conducting a study of the movie by using the theories found, this paper will discuss more about how Merida behave in

the movie, by analyzing her characterizations and then classified them into the characterizations of a liberal feminist.

## 1.2 Problem Identification

Children's literature supposed to have the same enjoyment as what the adult has (Junaid, 2017). Therefore, children able to choose the literature that they want which they think as good for them. Movie is an audio-visual media that already developed into various kinds of genres which might be suitable for the children as well. One of the biggest movie company in the world is Disney. Walt Disney Studio has produced various kinds of movies, which targetted the children as their main market. Children are also very familiar with the characters in Disney. One of Disney's movie is *Brave* (2012), which has Merida as their main character. The insertion of feminism value are found in *Brave* (2012), especially in the characterizations of Merida as the main character.

Feminism value was considered to be something that only the adult has. This statement is denied with the statement of Vandergrift (1993) that the use of feminist theory in children's literature is to make the children able to define themselves. Therefore, the insertion of feminism value in *Brave* (2012) is to make children has more broaden view to see how the world work. By their age, they will know how to treat men and women in society with the same right and voice. The awareness of the gender equality will be embedded in their mind. Through *Brave* (2012) children will be able to make a better society for both women and men without having any gender stereotype nor gender inequality in the future. Hence, this research analyzed the feminism traits that are depicted by Merida in *Brave* (2012), especially the liberal feminism trait.

### 1.3 Limitation of Study

This study is conducted to analyze the characterization of Merida in the movie entitled *Brave*, which is considered as a movie contain feminism. By the characterization of the main character, it is then analyzed on how her character is considered as a representative of a feminist in the story. After deciding the characterizations, the study will decide which type of feminist Merida includes into in the movie by analyzing the values of feminism appear in the movie.

### 1.4 Research Question

1. What are the characterizations of Princess Merida in Disney's *Brave* movie?
2. What are the representation of the Liberal feminism that appears in Merida's characterizations in Disney's *Brave* (2012)?

### 1.5 Research Objectives

1. Analyzing the characterization of Princess Merida Disney's *Brave* movie.
2. Analyzing the representation of the Liberal feminism that appears in Merida's characterizations in the Disney's *Brave* (2012).

### 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

#### 1.6.1 Feminism

According to Freedman (2001), feminism means the descrimination of women and low grade position of women in society. The discrimination that was received by the women, generated a movement to free women from the oppression of society. Tong (2009) has classified feminism movement in the history into 8 different types of feminism. Those are liberal feminism, radical



feminism, marxist and socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, care-focused feminism, multicultural/global/postcolonial feminism, ecofeminism, postmodern and third wave feminism (Tong, 2009).

### **1.6.2 Liberal Feminism**

The liberal feminism movement came from the discrimination that is received by women in society (Tong, 2009). The inequality between men and women is seemed very clear in the society. Hence, the liberal feminism believes that equality between men and women is needed to be achieved in order to make a better society (Tong, 2009). According to Tong (2009), the patriarchy system made the feminine quality is seen as low value, meanwhile the masculine quality is seen as high value. Therefore, in order to realize the equality between men and women, the society supposed to develop positive masculine qualities as well as the feminine qualities (Tong, 2009).

### **1.7 Significance of Study**

#### **1.7.1 Theoretical Significance**

##### **1. Literature learning**

The significance of the study in the scope of the literature learning is to improve the understanding of the literary works. Literature is not only can be enjoyed by the adults, but the children also able to enjoy kinds of literary works. Therefore the children's literature which is considered as literary works hopes to make children able to define and find their character by enjoying literary works such as movie. A movie for children is something fun to watch and made of enjoyment, children considered to

be easier to get the meaning of the movie itself. By using recognizable character, movie will gain children's attention and help them learn on how they have to define themselves in the real life (Vandergrift, 1993).

## 2. Language learning

Movie as a product of literary works has a function as a media for children to learn language. Movie is a way for the children to get used of the dialect of English (King, 2002). Because of that for those children that do not use English as their native language, watching a movie is important to get used of the dialect of English. Movie is known for its attractive visual pictures and voice, therefore children will be interested to pay their attention to the movie. The effectiveness of using movie for language learning is not only felt by the children, but it is for the adult as well.

### 1.7.2 Practical Significance

#### 1. For Lecturers of English as Foreign Language

The result of this study is expected to give an illustration of doing a movie interpretation in the field of feminism. The study is also expected to be one of the media for understanding feminism that exist nowadays which represents in a children literature

#### 2. For Students of English as Foreign Language

The result of this study is expected to inspire students who involved in English subject about a movie interpretation, especially in the field of feminism. This study also expected to be additional information for

those students who want to know more about what feminism is and how it is classified especially in children movie.

### 3. Society

The result of conducted this study for the society is to open people minds about how feminism is. The insertion of feminism into children's movie is not something risky for the children it is hoped as a way and a viewpoint of how the children will define themselves in society.

