

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

When some people hear the words about warriors and generals in a royal army, what is surely imagined and thought in their minds is definitely a man who is strong, big, and, of course, tough. Because it has become commonplace that a general of an army, let alone a royal security force, must be led by a man. The character of a good general must also have several traits such as good leadership, courage, selflessness, self-confidence, adaptability, and good mental and physical resilience.

These characters are very closely related later, with attitudes toward taking action and also decisions in a war or problems that occur. It is the character that is so hard and tough that it is very strong to dominate. It is men who deserve the position or power to lead an army.

However, as humans who were created with male and female genders, the female figure should not be forgotten, let alone belittled. Because, in essence, all humans on earth have had the same rights and opportunities since birth. A female figure also has traits and characters that can certainly make her a leader. Even as a leader of an army, the woman can do it. Like the general character that has been explained above, of course women have the same opportunities and rights. The woman should be trained without discriminating against gender, as is often the case.

The female figure is often depicted as a weak human, in fact, woman can also fight against enemies. Woman can also make strategies in a war and make wise decisions, just like men, who often dominate in a war or problem. Even though women can also have attitudes and behaviors like these men, women also cannot be separated from their weaknesses, which are often treated arbitrarily by men.

As the case with sexual violence, which is often perpetrated by men against women, women are often become the victims. Both the physical trauma and the one that is very large and affects the life of the female victim are psychological traumas. In this case, the figure of a woman who often gets unfair treatment is often depicted on black women in most cases; however, in reality, it turns out that not only black women can get this evil treatment, both oppression and sexual violence.

However in some cases, it is precisely these black women who have far greater power to overcome the traumas caused by the evil treatment of some of these men. As in the depiction of black women that occurred in West Africa in the 17th–19th centuries in the film *The Woman King* (2022), these formidable soldiers have a dark past as experienced by generals, and several women in their troops experienced oppression such as physical violence and non-physical violence.

In the film *The Woman King* (2022), women are described as strong and tough humans who are one of the strongest and most terrifying weapons owned by the kingdom of Dahomey. These elite female troops are called 'The Agojie'.

These are selected women who have been trained physically and psychologically to be strong and tough and able to fight against enemies. The Agojie prove can beat the enemy and win every battle there is. For this reason, the female troop of 'The Agojie' became one of the sources of power for the Dahomey kingdom at that time.

The reason of the writer chose the film *The Woman King* is because in this film it tells a story where the conditions of African women were treated like slavery at that time, conflicts between children and parents where a woman is often sold by her parents through marriage, and also sexual violence that occurs that still happens to this day. In addition, the film, written by Dana Stevens, who is also a woman, is very interesting to analyze. Apart from being closely related to the gynocritic theory or the theory about female writers. It turns out that the story in this film is an adaptation of real-life history. Films set in the kingdom of Dahomey in 1823 do exist. Now the area is called Benin, a country in West Africa.

Feminism is a discussion of criticism of the women's movement, which is often considered taboo to discuss because it is a criticism that is considered subjective and not objective. It is because of the views on feminists that there are so many that a lot of debate is born. One of which is women's writing, or gynocritic, which is often called subjective and always demeans women. The term gynocritic appeared and was introduced by Showalter in 1981. It originated from the writings of Virginia Woolf in 1957 and Helene Cixous in 1976, which talked about the concept of feminism in women's writing.

The theoretical idea put forward by Showalter that gynocriticism is a theory that focuses on a woman's way of analyzing literature by building new models based on women's experience. There are four different models on which this gynocritic study rests: women's writing and women's biology; women's writing and women's language; women's writing and women's psychology; and women's writing and women's culture.

The writer wants to prove that there is a connection between *The Woman King*, where most of the stories in the film are based on real life at that time, and the study of women's writing, which has aspects that can be studied both psychologically and culturally. Hence, the writer take the researcher entitles “*ANALYSIS OF WOMEN STRUGGLES REPRESENTED IN THE WOMAN KING MOVIE: GYNOCRITICISM STUDY*”

B. Question and Scopes of the Research

1. Question of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, the problems discussed in this research, namely:

- a. What are the struggles of women represented in *The Woman King* Movie?
- b. How do the women in the film *The Woman King* maintain their existence as strong female warriors?

2. Scopes of the Research

As a scope of research, the author only focuses on the analysis of women's struggles as represented in the actions of women who carry out various actions such as fighting in the film *The Woman King*. Because the author wants to know more about the struggles in the film. To clarify the limitations of the data, the author chose several scenes in this film to analyze women's fighting actions and prove gynocritic analysis.

The theory used in this research is from Showalter (1981) as the major theory of gynocritics and femininity. Besides that, the writer uses the theory from Hooks (2015) and Butler (1999) as the theory of woman struggles and feminism critical in *The Woman King Movie (2022)* the film written by Dana Stefans.

C. Objectives and Significance of Research

1. Objectives of the Research

Based on the question of the research above, the objectives of the research are as follows:

- a. To identify the struggles of women represented in *The Woman King* Movie
- b. To show how the women achieve her goal of maintaining her existence as a formidable female

2. Significance of the Research

Through this research, the writer hopes this research can give significance to those who read it. The writer wishes this research can theoretically give more insight and knowledge about the woman struggles and the explanation about gynocriticism in this movie. The result of this research is also expected to be the reference for other researchers in the upcoming time.

Practically, this research is expected to be able to help the students or the readers who are knowing about the part of feminisme especially gynocriticism. Most of the people not knowing about this, and the writer hope the research will be able to help it.

D. Operational Definition

1. Gynocriticism

Gynocriticism is a field of literary study which focuses on women who make literature. The making of a work of a woman is certainly much more emotional due to the factor of women themselves who do have a much deeper feeling, in expressing an art.

2. Feminist

Feminist is a form of criticism in which women are weak people who always lose their rights in anything. which is also a movement that seeks to fight for women's rights so that they can be treated fairly in any case.

3. Movie

Movie Productions of visual art that replicate experiences and convey ideas, stories feelings, thoughts, beauty, or atmosphere through photographs. It is a form of the media that incorporates a variety of artistic and technical abilities, including acting, directing, scripting, cinematography, costume and scene design, and music.

4. Woman Struggles

Woman Struggles is women facing many kinds of issues and challenges that particularly impact women and young girls. The fight against abuse can differ across situations and countries, such as the struggle to overcome the trauma of violence, including domestic violence, sexual violence, and harassment, as well as the struggle against prejudice and discrimination based on a person's sex.

E. Systematization of the Research

The systematization of the research intends to present the research in well-edited composition. The systematization of the research is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I is an introduction. It explains about the background of the research, questions and scopes of the research, objectives and significance of the research, operational definition, and systematization of the research.

Chapter II is a theoretical description which enlightens the theories from several references to support the research such as the definition of gynocriticism, feminism, women struggles and element fiction of movie.

Chapter III is about research methodology. It contains methods of the research which included the time and place of the research, kind of research, procedure of the research, technique of the research, technique of data collection, and sources of the primary and the secondary data.

Chapter IV is data analysis which explains data description, data analysis, interpretation of research findings.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. In this chapter, the writer concludes the entire chapter relating to the hypothesis discussion and gives suggestions relating to the significance of the research.

