

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Movies in this day were dominated by female characters or female heroes. Female heroes' characters in action movie are a popular in entertainment screens because the sight of a "masculine" woman taking on a role only available to men. Goodwill (2009) stated that female and male heroes are different since female hero combines both traditional masculine traits that belong to traditional male heroes with traditional feminine traits. Female hero can be portrayed as brave, strong and intelligent, but she can also be portrayed as nurturing, emotional and motherly (p.22). For example, the main character of Disney film *Mulan* by Niki Caro in 2020.

Mulan is a story about a girl from Chinese that transformed into a male warrior to save her father and decided to break the stereotype to prove that she is worth in the Chinese army. The story was interesting, because you can see the struggle of the main character *Mulan* sacrifice herself to save her father, family, and defend her country from Hun's people. *Mulan*'s character has a strong, brave, and intelligent leadership. *Mulan* is also an example of independent woman. She is not afraid of being different. In this movie, the writer also looks at the perspective of woman where woman can have not only a strong character and become a leader but also a soft side that loves her family a lot. This is why *Mulan*'s characters has a strong

impact to this movie. If we look up to Indonesia as references, in the past women also could not raise her equality to become an independent woman. Then, there is a person, R.A Kartini who fought for gender equality in the past. Therefore, women were able to be in school, has a job, also become a leader.

Additional reason why the writer chose this title is because the writer is interested in watching movie. In this movie, the character of Mulan is strong. She is an independent woman who learn to fight and did some martial arts. Not only that, she was also really brave to sacrifice her life when her father condition did not allow him to fight for his country. She moved forward to help her father whatever it is and, in the end, when The King offered to make her an officer in the Chinese army, she refused, and decided to choose her family instead of becoming a Chinese army. Next, talking about gender stereotype is still taboo in the past. Some other side says that men are higher than woman, and other side says different. The writer aspired to change people perspective of that with this movie. Woman can also in the same way as men without hurting each other sides. Moreover, the writer wants to convey to the readers that as a woman it is “nothing wrong being different”.

Nowadays, women were dominating in every parts, for example a game like *League of Legends* that dominated by women characters, animations like the animations from Japan called *Love Live!*, and a movie like *Charlies Angels*. As you can see, nowadays women got a right to choose

a job they like. Unfortunately, on the other side, because of the movement, some people called women who want to do what they really want as a feminist.

Related term to feminism is the feminist movement which is described as a number of different social, political, and intellectual perspective and institution in complex ways including class, culture, sexual orientation, and etc. The feminist movement is made by a woman because of an unfairly treatment that society does. Another reason of this movement is gender stereotype that women position is lower than men position.

As a woman, gender stereotype has an effect on us. For instance, when woman wanted to be a leader in a company, some people would think that woman did not have any leadership inside, careless, emotional, and so on. Another example is the assumption that women are bad drivers because they could cause accidents.

Then, about the gender stereotype, the writer took some definition by the experts. First is gender. Gender is about types or categories of people who are defined in relation to one another. Ridgeway and Lovin (1999) said, gender is a system of social practices within society that constitutes distinct, differentiated sex categories, sorts people into categories, and organizes relation between male and female. (p. 192) Women are most in the low status position than men. In sex categorization, men are more powerful roles while women in a more supportive manner in their less powerful roles. For example, some people expect that women will take care of their children,

cook, and clean the home, while men take care of finances, work, and do the home repairs. In occupation, teacher or nurse are woman and pilot and driver are men. Second is stereotype. Stereotype is an assessment of someone about the group that is based upon how they look on the outside, which may be untrue or only partly true. For example, men are stronger than women or women are not good at sports. Gender stereotype makes it difficult for women to get their freedom. As soon as they got married, women have to become housewives who take care of housework and their children. Men and women are also differentiated by their positions.

Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty also preserves the ideals of a people and love, faith, duty, friendship, freedom, reverence which is the part of human life most worthy of preservation. Regarding to this definition, at the end, both man and women have same right to choose what they like and want to do in this world.

B. Question and Scopes of the Research

1. Question of the Research

Based on the focus of the study above, the writer arranges this research through the following questions:

- a. What is the representation of gender stereotype in Mulan character?
- b. What action did Mulan take to prove gender equality in Mulan Movie 2020?

2. Scopes of the Research

This research focused on the representation of gender stereotype in Mulan movie. The gender stereotype theory that the writer took is from Eagly et al (2019). Some evidences were taken from PDF books that related to the topics, journal and a textual evidence in the form of screenshots also the dialogues from the film.

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

In accordance with the research questions that have been described previously, the objectives of the research are described as follows:

- a. To analyze what is the representation of gender stereotype in Mulan character.
- b. To find out what action did Mulan take to prove gender equality in Mulan movie. (2020)

2. Significance of the Research

The significance of this research is that the writer hopes there are benefits that can be taken. Theoretically, the purposes of this research are that some people can open their mind about gender stereotype. The gender stereotype is sensitive topics. Some people would have different thought about it. Practically, the writer hopes the reader will know

about gender stereotype terms and some phenomenon that happened in this world and understand the representation of the woman itself.

D. Operational Definitions

To analyze the gender stereotype, the writer described the meaning of the important words or phrases used in this research. They are as the followings:

1. Movie

Movie is a moving picture which when it is displayed on the screen, it creates the illusion of the moving pictures

2. Feminism

Feminism is a worldwide movement represented by various activity on behalf of women's rights and interest.

3. Masculinity

Masculinity is the relationship between the body and the social is two-way and simultaneous and how practice itself forms and is formed by the structures within which bodies are appropriated and defined.

4. Stereotype

Stereotype is an assessment of someone about the group that is based upon how they look on the outside, which may be untrue or only partly true.

5. Gender stereotype

Gender stereotype is the category sex, which divides most humans into two groups based on their reproductive functions, is fundamental to human cognition and social organization.

6. Gender

Gender is the ideas of the difference's classification between man and woman in social life. Gender is also defined as a masculine or feminine behavior that describes a person's gender.

E. Systematization of the Research

In this research, the systematization of the research is intended to explain the arrangement of research in a composition that has been properly edited. This research is divided into five chapters as follow:

Chapter I is Introduction which explains about background of the research and the reason why the writer choses the research, question and scopes of the research, objective and significance of the research, operational definition and systematization of the research.

Chapter II is Theoretical description explaining about definitions of literature, gender, gender stereotype, stereotype, masculinity, feminism, Movie and Research of the Relevance.

Chapter III is Methodology of the research which is method of the research, procedure of the research, technique of the data collection, technique of the data analysis, and data source.

Chapter IV is Data analysis that explains about the data description, the data analysis and the interpretation of the research findings.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion which explains about conclusion of all chapters and suggestion that relate to the result of the research.

