

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Literature is expressions, ideas, stories, views, and beliefs in the form of words as art. In other words, literature is an art made by words, arranged *beautifully* in a way. When put in that way, it can be argued that every poem and prose is considered to be an art. While for a poem it is correct (that it is an art), for prose, it is hardly the case.

Prose that has artistic value like novels and short stories is both literature and art, while academic or research books are only literature, not art. But literature is not fixated only on words on a sheet, as the main idea of literature is “expression in words”. words can also be expressed in other things. Words put together with melody and music is literature in the form of lyrics and songs. Words that are put and arranged in a script, forming a dialogue and telling a story, are called drama/play.

Drama is the performing or dramatic arts, on the other hand, combine speech with a variety of non-verbal or optical-visual techniques, such as stage design, set design, scene switching, facial expressions, gestures, make-up, props, and lighting. In a drama or play, actors and actresses who perform as the characters in said drama are vital. Both male and female actors are important for the story progression. However, female characters in a drama usually are not that significant to the story, serving as either side characters or being overshadowed by the male character

Women in literature and play have taken many roles, but only a few took the spotlight of the main character who brought influenced those around them. The majority of women characters in literature served as either a side character, a minor character, or an antagonist (as seen in *Macbeth* and *Titus*). They are mostly not the focus of the story, and many of them suffered or are killed for the plot. To make matters worse, we have seen beyond doubt that many of the classic hits or great literature works have men as the main characters, which led to women characters being overshadowed by them. But of course, as mentioned previously, some female main characters took the stage as a representative of women in literary works, notable women characters such as Juliet from *Romeo & Juliet*, Hermione from the *Harry Potter* trilogy, and Elizabeth Harmon from the novel and miniseries *The Queen's Gambit*. These female characters introduce and represent feminism in the literature field.

Mangan stated that feminism is a broad term covering a variety of social movements and philosophical viewpoints that support women's rights, collective advocacy for gender equality in the law, the economics, and society, as well as the notion that women ought to have the same opportunities and rights as men (2019, p. 512). Feminism is also an expansive and dynamic literary movement that aims to explore and enhance the experiences, perspectives, and legal rights of women. It encompasses a wide range of creative works by authors who identify as feminists or who include feminist themes and notions into their works, including plays, poetry, essays, and novels. Feminist writing has been a powerful force by challenging traditional gender conventions, exposing injustices, and advancing women's rights and

empowerment. Feminism in literature has changed and adapted to the shifting cultural and social environment, and it is still a strong and influential force in the literary world, influencing conversations about gender, power, and equality. It has contributed to the development of our understanding of gender and motivated both men and women to fight for equality in society both in and outside the literature field, as inequalities in real life society are much more common and normalized.

Inequalities and oppression that feminism fights against stem from the social prejudices which happened on a regular basis. Social prejudice has been an issue that spans around the world for many centuries; divided into a few kinds of branches. In gender – men are seen as heroes, leaders, and influential people – while women are expected to only become a watcher, and assistants, and do nothing. It is, with no doubt, that women suffer the most from prejudice formed by societies. Women and children have minor roles, which is why they are considered a minority in society. In social status, particularly social caste, those that are born from the higher social status such as nobles, have fixed prejudice to those who are born in the lower class, such as farmers and slaves. In racial diversity, differences in skin color, race, and ethnicity of social groups in society have a significant impact on each group. Take, for example, the white people group in the United States have their prejudice against Asian and African American groups. The Asian group usually gets labelled as *being smart at maths* while the African American group is prejudiced as being *violent and aggressive*.

To understand prejudices that have been happening in lots of societies, the causes have to be seen; what made people prejudice other people? How is it that a

group can become prejudiced? There are a few potential causes to consider, such as stereotypes, categorizing, historical events, and family/friends/social groups. Stereotypes are usually the dominant factor in many prejudice cases. The term "stereotype" refers to ideas connected with a category (i.e., a social group), exaggeratedly represent group characteristics, and justify conduct toward those groupings. In other words, the stereotype is a simplified assumption about a group based on prior experiences or beliefs. In categorizing, people often use their ability to place other people's (be it by ethnicity, gender, etc) ideas, into different categories to make comprehending the world better and easier. Being able to categorize something makes us react and interact faster (such as making decisions and prejudgment). However, doing so also leads to mistakes.

Allport (1954) explained that prejudice is an antipathy based on unreliable and rigid generalizations. It could be expressed or felt. It may be addressed to the group as a whole or a specific member of the group. Prejudice is a flawed and rigid generalization since it is completely arbitrary because it typically emerges before any actual, direct encounter with the target of the prejudice. In other words, the same as making assumptions about someone before meeting them.

In all countries, societies have prejudicial thoughts and stereotypes of each other's groups. Gender and racial prejudice are the most common and evident. With African American group still suffers from discrimination or racism, although not as aggressively as in the 17th-19th Century. Prejudiced perception of women, however, is still apparent, unlike racism in society. In the everyday past, women are expected to

dress well and behave properly. Misbehaviour from a woman is heavily punished and frowned upon more than a man. When a man is judged for their noble actions, a woman is judged based on their appearance, manner (including speech manner), lifestyle, and preferences. A man may choose whoever they want to marry, while a woman may not. Many women have their marriages set by their parents, with them having little to no right to refuse, especially those in noble positions. This set of thinking and opinions that led to prejudice may not be frequent or may as well not exist anymore in developed countries and city areas. But in developing countries, suburban areas, and villages, it is still visible nowadays, even in movies.

Movies, especially those that are based on a novel or other literary works, are in fact, a form of literature. Similar to a play or drama, a movie is a literature with acting. Both a play and a movie have a script and that script is expressed in acting. A movie is an illustration of words in a picture, or a moving picture (video), recorded and shown in a cinema, television, and devices that can play a video. A movie is a motion picture; it is a collection of still pictures that, when watched quickly (often at 24 frames per second), appear to move fluidly. Movies, in other words, *move*. Movies are unique among all other two-dimensional graphic arts in that fundamental way. The arrangement of visual components and the interaction of light and shadow are only a few of the fundamental compositional ideas that these elder relatives (photography, painting, drawing, etc.) established. The persistence of vision, an optical phenomenon, creates the appearance of real, continuous movement. Movies have come a long way in history from averaging a duration of 10 minutes to being more than 10 hours long,

divided into a series of episodes with a varied duration from 40 minutes to 50 minutes long. According to Bergan, a multi-episode, commonly action-adventure, movie is called a serial. It was released in theatres in weekly instalments, with each chapter ending on a cliffhanger (2011, p. 115). This kind of movie is called a “series” or “miniseries”. It is called “mini” because it has a set number of episodes with a clear beginning, middle, and finish. While a series is made for multiple seasons and recurring characters.

The Queen’s Gambit is originally a novel written by Walter Tevis in 1983, which is later adapted into a Netflix miniseries *The Queen’s Gambit* in 2020, consisting of 7 episodes and directed by Scott Frank. The movie is about a girl named Elizabeth Harmon who struggles with various kinds of problems while she chases her passion and works her way up in the chess world, beating her rivals in chess tournaments. She is underestimated pretty frequently by her opponents (who was all male) to the point that the researcher of this paper thinks she is being prejudiced and looked down upon just because she is a girl in chess tournaments, be it small (local) or grand tournament (international). Not only is she prejudiced and looked down upon because of her gender, but because of her young age as well. Her best friend was prejudiced heavily because of her race, African American. The issue of prejudice is seen a lot in many ways, with the majority of females being prejudiced. The movie’s themes include feminism, chess, prejudice, drug addiction, and alcoholism. Therefore, the researcher finds the movie to be worthy of research.

The researcher of this thesis solely focused on the depiction of prejudice conveyed by the characters in Netflix's miniseries *The Queen's Gambit*. The prejudice depicted was analyzed and discussed in data analysis. The researcher has chosen the title "*Social Prejudice in The Queen's Gambit miniseries*" for this paper as it is self-explanatory.

B. Questions and Scopes of the Research

1. Question of the Research

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

- a. What are the kinds of social prejudices in *The Queen's Gambit*?
- b. Why is prejudice, especially prejudice toward genders, a recurring phenomenon in *The Queen's Gambit*?

2. Scopes of the Research

In this research paper, the researcher only focused on the depiction of prejudice in *The Queen's Gambit* miniseries. To make limitations the data, the researcher chose to only discuss acts of social prejudices seen in the miniseries, starting from the first until the seventh episode. The prejudiced behaviours that were observed are prejudices aimed at all characters in the movie.

The theories used as references in this paper are prejudices theories borrowed from various experts, including Nelson, *et al.* (2009), Allport (1954), Crandall and Eshelman (2003) and Tileaga, *et al.* (2022).

C. Objectives and Significance of the Research

1. Objectives of the Research

Based on the questions, the objectives of the research are the following:

- a. To identify kinds of social prejudices in *The Queen's Gambit* miniseries.
- b. To discover the cause and reason of the recurring phenomenon of prejudice in *The Queen's Gambit* miniseries.

2. Significance of the research

Theoretically, the researcher hopes it can be of use to readers and future researchers. This paper has the intention to give an introduction and knowledge as well as to help find solutions for social prejudice, mainly in the gender area. What this paper discusses could be a model for works, revision, and reference in the future.

Practically, this paper is expected to help other or future readers, researchers, and collaborators in recognizing prejudices in society. By having a comprehension of prejudice, readers can help find more problem-solving matters to fix the spreading of prejudices in any way, or of any sort in society.

D. Operational Definition

1. Literature

Literature is a work of art in the form of words structured beautifully while being not grammar oriented where the paper is the stage and the audience is the reader.

2. Feminism

Feminism is a movement that aims to advance equality for both genders because it combats gender inequality, a problem that has historically disproportionately affected women, as it strives to create a just society free from tyranny, discrimination, and restriction where all genders can flourish..

3. Social Prejudice

Social Prejudice is a pre-determined set of beliefs or views of other groups in society based not on experience, but pre-judgment of another group referring to age, caste, race, gender, and religion that usually holds a negative impact on opinions.

4. Movies

A movie is a motion picture; it is a series of still images that, when viewed fast (often at 24 frames per second), appear to move fluidly.

E. Systematization of the Research

The researcher divided this research into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I is an introduction. The introduction includes a brief explanation of what the paper is about. It describes 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. It presents and explains the theories used in this research in a systematic manner. It includes explanations about feminism, social prejudice, and movie theories along with the experts, books, and previous academic papers which are related and relevant for this research.

Chapter III discusses research methodology. The method of the research is outlined to make a clearer study of the research. It includes research methods such as the type of research, the procedure of the research, technique of the data collection, technique of the data analysis, and the data sources.

Chapter IV is data analysis. It includes research findings and discussion which explains data description, data analysis found in the movie, and interpretation of research findings. Analysis of the data is performed using theories from Chapter II.

Chapter V is the conclusion. It describes the finalization and concluding the data findings. The researcher wrapped everything up and made suggestions based on the research's significance in this chapter.