

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Problem

A movie screenplay is the literary expression of the story, characters, actions, locations, and tone of your film written in a specialized dramatic script format. Whether you write the script yourself or work with someone else's material, it's important to remember that the screenplay is not the final product. (Hurbis-Cherrier, 2007: 15). There are many movie script or screenplay that contains the sociological theory in literature, the sociology of literature is a specialized area of study which focuses its attention upon the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created. It reveals that the existence of a literary creation has the determined social situations. (Manal, 2020: 360). There is a special amount of work on the sociology seen through many movies. Movies offer a way of seeing and feeling that is truly satisfying. They take us through experiences, which are often driven by stories centered on the characters we care about. In addition, movies provide important information and ideas that can help us understand life in new ways. They take us through experiences, Experiences are often driven by stories centered on the characters we care about. (Bordwell, 2017: 2).

As this discussion suggests, the primary strand of research in the sociology focuses on sociological themes, concepts, and theories in literature and film; most often, but not exclusively, those related to inequality and stratification. When we talked about the sociological problems and issues in movies, gender identity and social inequality have always been intriguing to discuss about. Gender socialization is a process that teaches us the expectations and norms associated with our sex. It is essential in addressing gender inequality and discrimination, which have harmful consequences for individuals in our society. (Hoominfar, 2021: 1).

The phenomenon of gender equality and inequality can be visualized in the media such as in the film "Battle of the Sexes". Battle of the sexes is a biographical

sports film directed by Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton and written by Simon Beaufoy. This movie script tells a true story of a female tennis players, named Billie Jean King who fighting for equality in 1970s. After the inequality received by the main character Billie Jean, she accepted a challenge from Bobby Riggs, a male tennis player makes a controversial statement that he can beat any great female tennis player to compete for a tennis match to fight for women's rights. As this study is using the movie script, Simon Beaufoy who write the “Battle of the Sexes” spoke in his interview that he met Billie Jean King to discuss the project and persuaded her that the film couldn’t be made without dramatizing her private life as well as the match between her and Bobby Riggs.

Beaufoy does a lot of hard work to make a script about the 1970s tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. For example, he spent a lot of time studying 1970s America and the life of Billie Jean King, who beat Riggs in three sets. This changed the course of women's tennis, and Beaufoy did a great job of portraying all of the events in the movie. Beaufoy spoke with the Writer's Guild of America West website to learn more about what he learned from the "incredibly brave" King. He feels a "fourth wave" of feminism is underway and that underneath it all, Battle of the Sexes is a story about fairness and love. (Callaghan, 2017: 1). The author spent a lot of time researching 1973, studying the commercials and magazines from that time, and finding that the sexism was very blatant and unapologetic. They feel that the dialogue in the movie was over the top, but they included some of the more demeaning aspects of that era.

In this research, I am interested to analyze Battle of the Sexes movie script. Because, it is an interesting biographical movie with a sport theme and also this film has a female feminist main character in the film. This movie is no less interesting combining stories about gender inequality and feminism. Also, the movie setting is in the year of 1970, which is there are many feminist movements during that era. Molyneux stated in her paper that, others have studied the effects of the 1960s and 1970s on youth culture, a time of great change and experimentation when cultural norms underwent significant liberalization. (Molyneux, 2021: 4). Therefore, I will be analyzing the movie script “Battle of the Sexes” more specifically through sociological approach.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the Background of the problem above, I want to identify the problem through the character in “Battle of the Sexes” and the gender inequality and feminism faced by the character, Billie Jean King in Battle of the Sexes movie script. Therefore, I assume that the theme in this work is Gender Inequality and Feminism Seen In Characters of “Battle of the Sexes” Movie Script.

## **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the Identification of the problem above, this research problem is focused on analyzing the characters of the Battle of the Sexes movie. I limit the study to gender inequality and feminism seen in the main characters by using sociological theory about gender inequality and theory of feminism on the movie as follow:

Theory and concepts that I will apply as follow:

1. Through intrinsic approach, I use the characterization of showing method, setting, and plot.
2. Through extrinsic approach, I use sociology of literature through feminism and gender inequality.

## **1.4. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the Limitation of the problem above, I formulate the problem as follows:

1. What is the characterization, plot and setting that reveal in “Battle of the Sexes” movie script?
2. What are the concept of sociology of literature through gender inequality theory of Mansour Fakhri and the theories of feminism that appear in “Battle of the Sexes” Movie Script?
3. How is the theme of the movie script “Battle of the Sexes” elaborated through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

### **1.5. Objective of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, I carried out this research which aims to prove the assumption about the appearance of gender inequality through the main character in Battle of the Sexes movie script.

The objectives of the research as following below:

1. To reveal the characterization, plot, and setting in “Battle of the Sexes” movie script.
2. To analyze the concept of sociology of literature through gender inequality theory of Mansour Fakih and the theories of feminism that appear in “Battle of the Sexes” Movie Script.
3. To elaborate the theme by using the intrinsic and extrinsic approach.

### **1.6. Benefit of the Research**

The research are expected to be useful and relevant some respects, both theoretically and practically:

a. Theoretically

This research is expected to be useful for those who are interested in taking to this topic. Especially studying several reading of gender inequality which is embraced of sociological theory or want to explore knowledge with the same feminist approach or in another way. Hopefully, this research will be useful for finding another perspective.

b. Practically

The research is expected to be used as a reference, for students who want to do further research; for teacher providing information and as an additional reference that may be useful to understand about gender inequality and feminist approach. For readers this research may add some knowledges about the influence of gender inequality and feminism and provide knowledge to the readers especially who love literature.

### **1.7. Systematic Organization of the Research**

Based on the explanation above, the systematic organization of this research is as follows:

**CHAPTER I:****INTRODUCTION**

It consists of Background of the Problem, Identification of the Problem, Limitation of the Problem, Formulation of the Problem, Objectives of the research, Benefits of the Research, Systematic Organization of the Research.

**CHAPTER II:****THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

It consists several sub-chapters that explain the theory of previous research questions related to gender inequality and feminism.

**CHAPTER III:****RESEARCH METHOD**

It consists Time and Location, Research Approaches and Methods, Research Objects and Data, Data Collection Techniques, and Data Analysis Techniques.

**CHAPTER IV:****GENDER INEQUALITY AND FEMINISM SEEN IN CHARACTERS OF “BATTLE OF THE SEXES” MOVIE SCRIPT.**

It consists of the explanation of portrayal of gender inequality obtained from the analysis of character, plot, and setting.

**CHAPTER V:****CONCLUSION**

It consist of an evaluation of previous chapters and the implication of research results. In the conclusion of the researcher is open because it is possible that this conclusion can be continued with the next research.