

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Problem

The struggle of gender equality for women has been carried out until now. Feminist activists carry out their mission through various media to attract public attention and build alliances. The appearance of feminist activists is centered on the fight against patriarchal culture in society. Patriarchal culture makes men the rulers in their relationship with women who are made inferior to men. According to Martin (1916), the perspective of a person about feminism is freedom, independence, and equality of women and men in all aspects, just as women can also contribute to the economic, social, and political fields.

In America, feminist activists had begun to voice their rights long before World War I. Various efforts to improve the position of women in the family and in society began in the 1800s, and peaked during the revolutionary period in the 1960s. Feminist activists are mostly located in city areas, because cities have many problems caused by the times, so women decide to work outside the home. Many problems happened to women in the workplace, especially in factories and companies, they faced gender discrimination from men. From this incident, feminist activists appeared who demanded their rights. According to Lesli (1985:69), women wanted to show their talents and work hard outside the home.

Feminism has a third school which is Marxist-Socialist. Marxists consider capitalism to be the source of women's oppression, while socialists consider patriarchal culture to be the source of women's oppression. Capitalism and patriarchal culture combined are a mutually supportive power, but can trap women in the fear of solitude and self-care. This is because conservative values and the success of feminism have made women independent and free to choose. Socialist feminists follow the radical feminists who remove all forms of male power in the social and economic fields, so this is called Post-feminism.

Post-feminism is a more optimistic view of feminism towards women. Post-feminism has been developed further and is more progressive to excuse the deviation between feminist thought and postmodern thought. Post-feminism thinking reorganizes the understanding of gender equality into gender differences. According to Sofyan (2018), the view of women in post-feminism is women who are able to do all their own business and to please themselves. Women have understood the measure of their relationship with men. The most needed effort in gender equality is mutual respect, appreciation, and need from each gender in order to create harmony so that competition and discrimination of patriarchal culture can be eliminated. Even so, when women are happy to have everything, a good career and education, and also run all by themselves and even refuse to get married, they feel restless and anxious in the end.

Happiness and anxiety bring out a person's ambivalence. Ambivalence is a conflicting state that a person feels at the same time, when positive and negative things come and then feelings of anxiety begin. The ambivalence that occurs makes a person delay a conversation until the ambivalence is resolved. Someone who has high hopes and ambitions, while they are not aware of their real life in the family and in society, then it can make these people delusional. In the human psyche, there is ambivalence in the form of fear and hope that makes people anxious and panic.

Seeing that things are not as they should be in voicing women's rights, films are a great media for building people's mindset. Movies can be used to show women's struggles to society because movies have a strong influence in finding support. In film-making, a film script is needed for the running of scenes, setting, dialog, and characters played by actors. Film scripts are written by someone who is professional and creative in developing ideas, either giving the original ideas of the film script writer or from adaptations of novels or other story books. *Little Women* is a drama genre film with post-feminism elements and ambivalent behavior of the female characters, directed by Greta Gerwig who is also the scriptwriter of the film, and it is a film adaptation of the novel by Louisa May Alcott with the same title.

*Little Women* is based on the true story of a woman who experienced sibling rivalry, unrequited love, illness, ambition to achieve their dreams and women's place in the meaning of life, all of which are very much a part of the patriarchal cultural system. The four March girls, Meg, Jo, Amy and Beth, are born into a poor family but are ambitious to achieve their goals. The stories of the four March girls from childhood to adulthood, from playful childhood to adulthood where they feel love for someone while having to stay committed to their ambitions, resulting in feelings like being carried away by big waves.

Jo March has a love for literature and an ambition to become a famous writer, but she is also aware of gender issues in society and social economic problems in her family. For this reason, the embedded patriarchal culture for a secure life and to become a respectable woman is marriage. Meg chooses to marry and struggling with her beloved husband in any case, Amy struggles to become a painter and will marry a rich man, Beth has a fear of men except her father, she plays music while having to fight against her illness. Jo's thinking is different, she determines her own life and will not be defeated by men. She is ambitious to become a writer in New York and doesn't even think about getting married, she will fulfill the needs of her parents and her sisters. Until finally Jo realizes that she needs a man in her life.

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

Based on the background of the problem above, I identified the problem in the script of the movie *Little Women*, that the female characters want to get out of the stereotypes in society where women are loved to get married and have a family, while the female characters also think that they are lonely even though they have gotten their dream jobs. The female characters have ambivalence that ultimately their lives full of worries.

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

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit my research to analyze how the determination of the female characters to fend off all forms of oppression and discrimination of patriarchal culture despite the ambivalence in the struggle to achieve their dreams.

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

1. How is the image of women portrayed through characters, plot, and setting in the *Little Women 2019* movie script?
2. How does the characters ambivalence portrayed the idea of post-feminism in the *Little Women 2019* movie script?

#### **1.5. Objectives of the Research**

1. To comprehensively explain the image of women through characters, plot, and setting in the *Little Women 2019* movie script.
2. To describe the idea of post-feminism through the ambivalence of the characters in the *Little Women 2019* movie script.

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

This research is expected to be beneficial to:

##### **1. Practical benefits**

This research is expected to provide an overview and information to readers in particular, as a reference for researchers who are interested in literature, literature students, especially students who are interested in literary sociology studies, and literature teaching lecturers who want to further deepen literary knowledge.

##### **2. Theoretical benefits**

This research is expected to be a reference to the use of theory for researchers who feel hesitant in using theory, as well as for students who are studying literature.

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

The framework of this term paper entitled “Post-feminism and Ambivalence in Female Characters in The Movie Script of *Little Women 2019*”

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

This chapter consists of the phases of the research layout,

such as the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the objectives of the research, the benefit of the research, and the systematic organization of the research.

## **CHAPTER II: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter consists of Post-feminism Theories, Ambivalence Theories, Sociology Theories, Sociological Theories, and Previous Related Research.

## **CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter consists of detailed information related to the research approaches and methods used, namely qualitative approach and qualitative descriptive to explain the post-feminism and ambivalence in *Little Women* 2019 movie script.

## **CHAPTER IV: RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter contains the presentation of the findings and analysis of research based on the formulation of the problem that has been compiled in the first chapter.

## **CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION**

This chapter contains the conclusions of the research results that are revealed in a comprehensive, clear, and easy-to-understand manner. The conclusion chapter will help the reader understand the reason the study is important.