

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

At the beginning of the 20th century, the view of gender roles in Western culture had been based on a clear separation between men and women." (Powell, 1999, p. 3). This ideology stated because men and women had different characteristics, their roles in society were very different, with men expected to be dominant (Powell, 1999, p. 3). Over the years, gender has determined men's and women's roles in society (Kurin' in et al., 2013). Men were considered leaders who must be followed, while women were often positioned as followers. Starting from ancient times until the mid-20th century, women were often limited to the role of homemakers and often repressed (Kurin' in et al., 2013). However, this also led to an increase in sexism as women began to be discriminated against by men (Wulandari et al., 2016)

Sexism was a form of prejudice or discrimination based on gender (Dewi & Pratama, 2023). A more holistic perspective on sexism would have considered it an evaluation of particular language use based on the facts and linguistic and social context used to justify that evaluation. (Dewi & Pratama, 2023). It was crucial to analyze these judgments called sexist language, as they are also judgments about individuals.

Sexist language according to Mills (2008) in her theory was a term used to denote a wide range of very different elements, from the use of such items as generic pronouns such as 'he' (when used to refer to both males and females);

Word endings such as '-ette' used to refer to women, for example 'majorette', nouns referring to men and women such as 'landlord' and 'landlady', 'manager' and 'manageress', which seemed to have a different range of meanings.

According to Mills (2008), sexist language consisted of two types of sexism such as overt sexism and indirect sexism. Overt sexism was a type of usage that could be easily identified through linguistic markers or presumption analysis and a section was conveyed directly utilizing stereotyping, discrimination based on the institution's influence, and the use of its language. Also overt sexism had many kinds of types, such as naming, dictionaries, generic pronouns and nouns, insult term for women, semantic derogation, surname and titles, transitivity, reported speech, jokes. Types of indirect sexism were 'humor, presupposition, conflicting messages, script and metaphors, collocation, androcentric perspective'. Throughout this theory, the researcher was interested in sexist language and found out that sexist language still existed and was seen in literary works such as movies, media television, magazines or articles on the internet and novels.

The researcher decided to analyze more about sexist language that was worthy of being used as research, especially in the movie. The movie *Mary Queen of Scots* became the final decision for the research because this movie's central story focused on women and oppression of royalty and because of the plot of the story, sexist language toward women was also experienced by the main characters of the movie like Mary Stuart and Elizabeth.

Beau Willimon wrote *Mary Queen of Scots*, a movie that shows the turbulent life of the charismatic Mary Stuart. Queen of France at 16 and widowed at 18, Mary defies pressure to remarry. Instead, she returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her rightful throne. However, England is under the rule of the compelling Elizabeth I (Margot Robbie), who wishes to reduce the perceived threat from Mary. Each young Queen beholds her "sister" in fear and fascination. Rivals in power and love and female rulers in a masculine world, the two must decide how to play the game of marriage versus independence. Determined to rule as much more than a figurehead, Mary asserts her claim to succeed to the English throne, threatening Elizabeth's sovereignty. Betrayal, rebellion, and conspiracies within each court imperil both thrones--and change the course of history.

While watching this movie, the researcher immediately got the example of the utterances from movie script, which revealed that the main character had experienced in different kinds of sexism;

We cut to **Noblemen** in the midst of the crowd, gazing at her with disgust. One whispers to the other-- 3.

Mildmay: "She thinks herself a **martyr**."

Knightley: "**Wretched woman**."

The data was primarily derived from the utterances of written narrative and dialogue from the "Mary Queen of Scots" movie script. The dialogue occurred in the scene where Mary Stewart, Queen of France, suddenly became a widow after her husband's death and returned to Scotland to claim the throne, which was already held by her cousin, Elizabeth I. Most nobles in England disliked and

mocked Mary's presence, viewing her as a threat to Elizabeth's power, especially when Mary prayed in a Catholic manner.

According to Mills (2008), the term "noblemen" in this narrative section was classified as a type of overt sexism known as generic pronouns and nouns. The researcher categorized it as overt sexism because the term "noblemen" traditionally referred to male nobles, yet in the narrative, it was evident that female nobles had also attended the execution. This discrepancy was classified as generic pronouns and nouns.

In the dialogue between mildmay and knightley, characters in the movie used sexist language and exhibited overt sexism. The words "martyr" and "wretched women" were classified as examples of dictionary and naming. Normally, "martyr" held positive connotation as someone who sacrifices their life for a noble cause, often associated with men, but Mary is a woman and word martyr classified as stereotypical gender roles, characteristic features of dictionary. However, mildmay used it negatively in relation to the main character, a woman, thereby manipulating its meaning—a characteristic of naming sexism. "Wretched women" carry negative connotations, because in the situation knightley had said the word not in the expression of sympathy her but just for mocking her existence accused of criminal rebellion and people of Britain in that time despised Mary

A previous study on sexist language was conducted by Begum (2022), "He Said, She Said: A Critical Content Analysis of Sexist language used in Disney's The Little Mermaid (1989) and Mulan (1998)". The aim of this study was to identify and record gender-bias language depicted in the films by each gender.

It employed an interdisciplinary approach underpinned by data analysis and media criticism. Data analysis was used to categorize sexist language used by male and female characters, revealing a higher presence of male characters compared to female characters. The study also showed that 75% of the dialogue was spoken by female characters and 25% by male characters. There is a similarity between these current studies in terms of collecting data from conversations in films.

Similar study by Musingafi, Mafumbate, and Khumalo Thandi in 2019 "The Oppressive Sexist Male Language: A Feminist Portrayal of the English Language". This study focused on examining the various ways in which language portrayed a negative image of women. The study analyzed sexist language using Saul's theory from 2017, which is based on feminist gender neutrality. The aim of the study was to analyze types of sexist language and categorize the percentage of dialogue between males and females.

This research differed from the two previous studies by employing different approaches and data sources. Despite previous studies using theorists from the same field, they examined theories from different years, indicating varied approaches while still focusing on the category of sexist language. Additionally, this research had a similar focus to the researcher's study, which analyzed and identified types of sexist language, but differed in methodology. In contrast to the first previous study which used an interdisciplinary approach underpinned by data analysis and media criticism, this study focused solely on identifying sexist dialogue used by all characters in the movie "Mary Queen of Scots".

B. Problem of the Study

The researcher formulated two problems in this study as:

1. What kinds of sexist language did main characters experience in the movie script "Mary Queen of Scots"?
2. How did the main characters respond to sexist language using self-defense mechanisms in the movie script "Mary Queen of Scots"?

C. The Objective of the Study

There were two specific aims that became the focus of this study:

1. To find out the kinds of sexist language experienced by main characters in the movie script "Mary Queen of Scots."
2. To describe the kinds of self-defense mechanisms used by the main characters in response to sexist language in the movie script "Mary Queen of Scots".

D. The Scope of the Study

This research focused on the kinds of sexist language that were shown in the movie "Mary Queen of Scots". The limitations of the study included the analysis and classification of sexist language theory and self-defense mechanisms, and focusing only on female characters. The subject of the study was the utterances of dialogue and narrative in the movie script of "Mary Queen of Scots".

E. Significance of Study

The findings of the study were expected to offer both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the findings were expected to serve as a reference and provide knowledge for further studies related to sexist language. Practically, the aim was to enrich readers' information and knowledge about sexist language, especially in movies, and to provide other researchers interested in similar studies with further information for conducting research on the same topic.

