

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

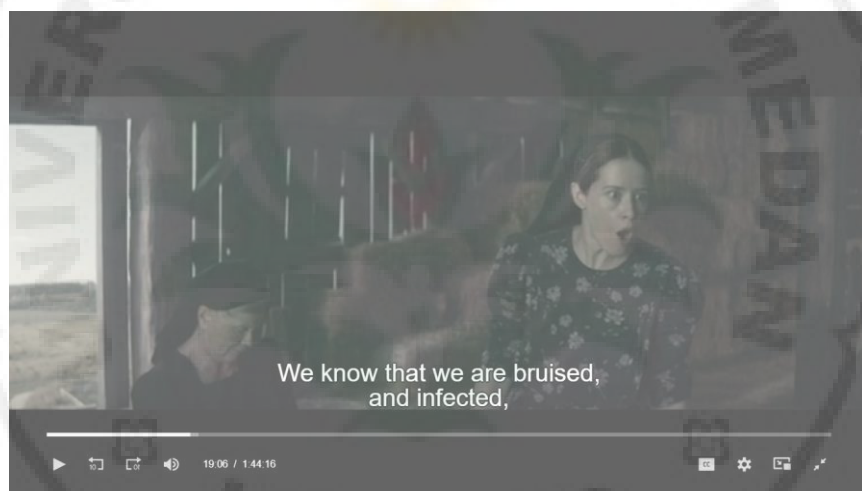
Globally, feminism has become a movement to help women achieve equality between men and women, as Handrahanan (2004) emphasizes that feminism is a solution to challenging forms of domination and inequality. In addition, Hoffman (2000) defines feminism as a movement for equality and freedom. On the other hand, equality has not been fully realized; as quoted from the Council of Europe, violence and discrimination against women still occur in many ways, preventing women and men from maintaining their traditional roles and preventing the full realization of women's human rights.

Women struggle to fight for their rights and get reinforcement because physically and sexually debilitating women still often occur in society (Yodanis, 2004). For example, the story of a colony in Manitoba was adapted into a film that tells about the struggle of women to get their rights and want to leave the peace that happened to women in the colony. The title of the film is *Women Talking* 2022. *Women talking* is a 2022 American drama film written and directed by Sarah Polley. Based on the novel by Miriam Toews, published in 2018, this film is inspired by actual events in her remote and isolated Mennonite community in Bolivia, Colonial Manitoba. The incident occurred because a group of men in the community committed violence against women by drugging them with a tranquilizer for animals. However, the women believed that it was the work of the

satan. Gender inequality also occurs in that community. Therefore, women begin to realize what is happening to them, so they want to change their lives in the future. This film tells of the struggle of women to leave their colony because they always get physical and sexual violence from men and are not given their rights in the form of getting an education like the men in their colony. Based on the theory of women's roles by Bouta and Freks (2002), the role of women in this film is depicted in various roles, including women as victims of sexual violence that occurred to women in their colonial lands, even sexual violence that occurred to their daughters.

Furthermore, film is a highly developed cultural artifact in which verbal, visual, and narrative contexts are regularly arranged for direct viewers and inspire them to watch (Smith, 2003). Then to find out the depiction of women's roles, researchers used semiotics to see how women's roles are depicted in the film "Women Talking 2022". Semiotics is the study of signs. The study of signs or the epistemology of reality or the existence of signs in people's lives is known as semiotics. Semiotics is an interdisciplinary field that studies the life of signs in society (Saussure, 1959). Although the term "sign" is most often used to refer to elements of verbal language and other tangible means of communication, in semiotics, sign also means a way of knowing or representing some aspect of reality through perception, thought, or social interaction. (Jensen, 2015). Then there are six types of signs, namely: symptoms, signals, icons, indices, symbols and names (Sebeok, 2001). In this research, researchers used Peircean semiotic analysis. Peircean visual semiotics has a trichotomy with three levels and nine

subtypes of signs. Starting with the first level trichotomy, there are representamen or signs consisting of qualisign, sinsign, and legisign. The second level trichotomy is an object composed of icons, indexes and symbols, followed by the third level trichotomy which consists of rheme, dicent or dicisign, and argumentation. Based on these three levels, researchers analyzed the meaning of the data to find out how women's roles were depicted in the film "Women Talking 2022".



Picture 1. 1 Scene 24 Interior. Hayloft - Afternoon (Minute to 19.06)

In this scene, women are portrayed as victims. The representamen or sign is qualisign, which is anger. Salome is furious when explaining that they get so much violence, and colonized women also know about it. The object in this scene is the index, namely, Salome's staring. Salome stands while staring thoughtfully and explaining the facts they experienced. The interpretant in this scene is the argument. As for Salome, she feels furious because she reiterates the facts about the violence they experienced in the colony..

As an example of the scene above that the researcher took from (<https://46.149.79.15/movie/women-talking-2022/>), the scene shows Salome, one of the characters in that movie, talking to other characters in Hayloft. As

explained by Bouta and Frerks (2002), women as victims experience systematic rape and other forms of violence. In this movie, women's roles are not only as victims; they also depict other types of women's roles based on the theory explained by Bouta and Frerks (2002). To find out those roles, the researcher used semiotic analysis of the movie's screenshots that depict women's roles.

Subsequently, the selection of this film as the object of research was made because this film is the winner of the writing (adapted screenplay) at the 2023 Oscars and the 2023 Oscar award nomination in the best picture category (www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies/2023), the winner at the 2023 AFI Awards as the best film, the winner at the Chicago Indie Critics Awards as the best-adapted screenplay, the winner at the 2022 Boston Society of Film Critics Awards as the best ensemble cast (IMBD), and many other winners and nominations. Besides several awards and nominations for this movie, it also depicts women's struggle for their rights. Hence, the researcher is interested in examining the depiction of women's roles in this movie.

B. Problem of the Study

Given the explanation previously, the following problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of women's roles in the "Women Talking" movie?
2. How is the depiction of women's roles in the "Women Talking" movie realized?

C. Objective of the Study

In line with the research problem, the research objectives are as follows:

1. To discover the types of women's roles in the "Women Talking" movie.
2. To elaborate on the role of women depicted in the "Women Talking" movie

D. The scope of the Study

The analysis focuses on women's roles based on the theory of Bouta and Frerks (2002) portrayed in that movie. The representation of the women's roles performed in the "Women Talking" movie use semiotic analysis of sign.

E. The Significance of the Study

The significance of this study can be viewed from both theoretical and practical aspects, as described below:

1. Theoretically

This study is expected to provide information and theory in research related to the gender role of women in society.

2. Practically

- a. For the Students of English Department

For the Students of the English Department The results of this study are expected to expand students' skills to increase their understanding of gender roles, especially the role of women.

b. For lectures of English Department

- (i) The results of this study are expected to be additional material for the teaching and learning process
- (ii) The results of this study are expected to be a valuable addition to further research. They will motivate students of the Department of English to learn about gender roles, especially women's roles.

c. For the further researcher

The results of this study are expected to be valuable information for further feminist research, especially those related to gender roles.