

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Movie is a kind of literary work which has widely been linked as a modern literary work. Bannet and Royle (2004: 142) state that over recent decades cinema is increasingly come to be incorporated into university literature courses and literature professors have been pronouncing on films, as well as on novels, poems and plays. It can be restated that movie, as a product of literary work, can be examined into literary critics, since it depicts not only reality in the society but also idea about current issue mushrooming all around this world.

Movie, as a literary work, is deeply rooted with this world and its social issues. One of those social issues is feminism. Feminism, which stands with legal and equal right between men and women in every aspect of their lives, has been being put as object of working by film makers. They believe that feminism as social movement needs to be diffused to the audiences in order that people become aware of gender's issues. Their working is one of many faces of feminism, women oppression and women spirit standing against patriarchal world.

G.I Jane, was a movie released in 1997 which was written by screenwriter Danielle Alexandra and directed by Ridley Scott. The movie is about a woman, Jordan O'Neil (Demi Moore), who becomes the first woman to undergo training in U.S Navy Special Warfare Group. She is chosen by Senator Lilian DeHaven (Anna Bancroft) from Texas, who criticizes the Navy for not being gender-neutral

and urges them to allow woman to follow the program. It is actually DeHaven's personal business behind that decision, something that is going to be revealed in the last minute ending.

As Lieutenant Jordan O'Neil is more feminine than the other candidates, she is chosen by DeHaven. After undergoing hard training, she shows her spirit of feminism over demanding the same treatment and standard as the male trainees. She wants to convince that a woman, as well as a man, has the same opportunity to be equally treated.

In pursuing equal status, Jordan O'Neil experiences how it is called as oppression. Hinson and Bradley (2008: 1) state that a person lives within structures of domination and oppression, if other groups have the power to determine his/her actions. Individuals experience oppressive conditions because they are part of a group that is defined on the basis of shared characteristics such as race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, age, ability, or interest. These major social groups have specific attributes, stereotypes and norms associated with them. Individual membership in these groups is neither necessarily voluntary nor necessarily acknowledged.

Jordan O'Neil, who was born as a woman in the male-dominated society, finds herself in difficulties to stand against male domination. O'Neil not only experiences male's domination but also endures physical and mental oppression during her time.

Young (1990: 37) states that injustice creates oppression and domination. In *G.I Jane* movie, oppression and domination faced by Jordan O'Neil is the product of injustice committed by those who disparage her. Young (1990) further defines oppression into five faces of oppression. They are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural dominance, and violence.

Exploitation is situation when someone's effort is controlled to benefit others by manipulating them. Exploitation can be happened not only in the relation of owners-workers but also in the relation of men-women. Women, who are linked as 'weaker' creatures, are easily to be exploited. 'women jobs', for instance taking care of sick people or babysitting are classified as lower paid jobs since they seem 'easy' and do not need any skill to do it.

Marginalization, in another hand, is situation when someone who is not or cannot be used by society due to their race or disability. Some people are lack of knowledge and skills, something that employers will not seek. One part of society is involuntary unemployment who has given up on finding job, the elders, and disabled persons who are treated as second class members. Women, for instance, also experience marginalization when they are stigmatized as non-productive members of society. Owing to their inabilities, it becomes easy for some classes to marginalize and shut them out of real life.

Powerlessness, in general speaking, deals with status. When someone has no status, they will be shut out of making decisions to the conditions of their employment, and, beyond that, the basic conditions of their lives.

Cultural dominance refers to some group who claim that their culture and history are more superior to any other groups. This belief drives them to rule and force others groups to follow their system. They also claim that anything beyond theirs is not acceptable. The last one is violence which is linked with situation when someone suffers or humiliates owing to their status or class.

The way Jordan O'Neil pursues equality upon men-dominated society despite being oppressed relates to feminism. Feminist Perspective seeks to evaluate literary work from the standpoint of women as second gender and examines about women's oppression and struggles against patriarchal culture, a culture organized in the favor of men (Guerin, Labor, Morgan, Reesman, and Willingham, 2005: 223).

Brooker, Selden, and Widdowson (2005: 115) claim that feminism has sought to disturb the complacent certainties of such a patriarchal culture, to assert a belief in sexual equality, and to eradicate sexist domination in transforming society. Further, feminism movement is not only about equality in treating women but also about contribution in empowering women all around the world.

Based on the explanation above, it is clear that feminism deals about women's standpoints as second gender in patriarchal culture; why they struggle, in what aspects they are oppressed by male domination, and what acts they do to fight their rights as human beings that should be equally treated.

Women's oppression and struggles against male-dominated culture had been widely conducted by some researchers. Even though the study about *G.I Jane*

movie had not been conducted yet by previous researchers, there were three writers who brought up feminism as their central issues. Their published works simply influenced this research.

Gao (2013) Reflection on Feminism in Jane Ayre examined about spirit of feminism in Jane Ayre character, a famous work written by Charlotte Bronte. Jane Ayre cast a sharp contrast to the man-society. She lived in Victorian Period of which society was man-controlled and man-dominated. Despite being lived in the unfriendly society, Jane Ayre fought in pursuing her independence, equality, esteem, and true love.

Wang (2010) in the research entitling A Representative of the New Female Image Analyzing Prynne's Feminist consciousness in The Scarlet Letter examined about Hester Prynne's character. This novel was a masterpiece of Nathaniel Hawthorne which depicted Hester Prynne. Hester Prynne was the heroine of the novel living in the Puritan society where colonial rule was combined by church and state domination. Her feminist consciousness was carefully depicted and reflected at the respect of her rebellious spirit, self-reliance and strong mind.

Ying (2010) in The Path to Jo's Self-Realization in Little Women and Good Wives examined about Jo's self-realization as a woman living during American Civil War. Jo was one of four girls in March's family who appeared with innate qualities featuring tomboyish nature and female independence and freedom in the realization of her ambition as a writer. Historically speaking, in the mid-

nineteenth century, writing was a male dominated occupation, making it difficult for her to become writer.

The study was designed to examine about feminism spirit's reflections on Jordan O'Neil in *G.I Jane* movie in term of oppression that she had already faced. Even though there were many newly launched movies depicting women and idea about feminism, *G.I Jane* was the one which had powerful messages that lead this research to be done.



B. The Problems of the Study

In analyzing a literary work, it is important to make the problem of the study in order to help the writer in analyzing the data. The problems of the study in this research were formulated as following:

- 1) What kinds of oppression were faced by Jordan O'Neil in *G.I Jane* movie?
- 2) What kinds of feminism spirit's reflection were shown by Jordan O'Neil in *G.I Jane* movie in term of oppression that she had faced?

C. The Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is used to answer the questions or the problems of the study. It will be useless if an analysis does not have its aim to be achieved.

The objectives of this study were:

- 1) To find out kinds of oppression faced by Jordan O'Neil in *G.I Jane* Movie.
- 2) To find out kinds of feminism spirit's reflection shown by Jordan O'Neil in *G.I Jane* movie in term of oppression that she had faced.

D. The Scopes of the Study

In order to avoid a very wide and unfocused analysis, it is necessary to make the limitation of the problem. This study were limited to the analysis of kinds of

oppression faced by Jordan O'Neil in *G.I Jane* movie and analysis kinds of feminism spirit's reflection shown by her in term of oppression that she had faced.

E. The Significances of the Study

The result of this study is intended to be useful, either theoretically or practically. Theoretically, the result of this study can enrich readers' knowledge about analyzing literary work, especially analyzing movie combined with theory of oppression and feminism.

Practically, the results of this research can be used as a reference in analysing literary works especially from feminism's and oppressions stand point, lecturing about feminism's movement and in conducting research about *G.I Jane* movie from different perspectives.