

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

In real life, people do not escape from oppression. Oppression is harm through which groups of persons are systematically and unfairly constrained, burdened or reduced by any of several forces, Cudd (2006). Young (1990) defined oppression as when people make other people less human. It could mean not only treating them in a dehumanizing manner but also denying people language, education, and other opportunities that might make them become not fully human in both mind and body.

In this era, oppression often happens to women. The oppression of women always occurred in women's lives. There are a lot of aspects of women's lives that are oppressed by men. It happens in their education, economy, family, etc. For instance, in family, how a husband determines a wife to be a good wife by not allowing her to become a career woman. In sexual, women are forced to satisfy men to get sexual satisfaction. Masculinity plays a role as the central norm and also as a sign regulating the symbolism of society. It gives privilege into men to access material necessary of power rather than female, Sulaeman & Homzah (2010).

Oppression happens not only in real life, but also in movie. Movie is one of the tools that can help women to communicate ideas concerning the feminism issue. *Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts*, a 2017 movie production is a representation which shows that the oppression to women in this era still exists. Through this movie, Mouly Surya, the director of this movie brings out

the issue of feminism. She tries to show that the oppression against women especially in Indonesia still exists primarily in the place which is still active with the culture. In Indonesia, there are some reports concerning sexual violence to a woman which included to an oppression act. As shared in <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.inews.id/multimedia/amp/jadi-korban-pemeriksaan-8-remaja-janda-di-takalar-trauma-dan-kerap-menangis/454369> recently in Takalar, Sulawesi Selatan, there was a widow who was raped in rotation by eight teenagers. The movie tells a story about the main character, Marlina resists the oppression done by seven men who steal her livestock and rape her. To endure the oppression, she gives poison to the soup which the seven men eat, and then she kills them with a machete. Fighting for her rights as a woman, Marlina does the feminism.

The movie is well wrapped with the element of Sumba's culture which is still active with patriarchy system. Through this movie, people will not only realize how heavy the burdens that must be experienced by women in Sumba but also know the landscape of living in Sumba which is rarely exposed in an Indonesian movie. Moreover, this movie has distributed to 18 counties and has received many awards from Indonesia and overseas. That is why the researcher is interested in taking this movie as the object of the research that brings out the issue of feminism.

The way Mouly Surya pointed out the struggle made by the main character relates to feminism. Larson (1997) stated that feminism is a political and intellectual movement for women's social and political liberation that has existed in different configurations since the 18th century. In Europe 1970s, the

issue of male violence against women, prostitution and inequality between genders became a focus by the feminists. Brooker, Selden, and Widdowson (2016) claim that feminism has been made to distract 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 the contribution to empowering women around the world.

There were some researchers who had conducted the research concerning the oppression. The previous researcher, Mohd Ashraf Mir (2014) concluded that the interlocking themes of the three novels that emerge are women's suffering and women's struggle for emancipation and autonomy in patriarchal society and culture. He also found out that the reading perspectives opened up by feminist discourses enabled us to discern the next of the patriarchal control and its extraction of women's subservience.

Another research by Qasim et al. (2015), they examined how both protagonists are deliberately driven 'mad' by their patriarchal husband in the novel. Both women feel that they do not belong from anywhere and this makes them more vulnerable; it becomes easier for the patriarchal husband to drive them 'mad' or make them mentally ill. The patriarchal society where they lived prohibits them from leading an independent life. They concluded that there is an excellent link between patriarchy, madness and oppression. All these three terms have linked with each other.

According to Masitah et al. (2016), the impact of patriarchal oppression is very significant in the novel as the characters live in a patriarchal society which allows the men to have control over the women. Patriarchal system is used as a tool to foreground the idea that women must not challenge a man's authority and that women must always abide by the cultural norms. They concluded that culture also plays an essential role in empowering the patriarchal system as it serves as an unwritten doctrine to segregate the functions of men and women.

Based on the previous researches and the other explanations above, it is clear that feminism deals with women's standpoints as the second gender in patriarchal culture. It also showed what aspects women are oppressed by male domination, why women are struggling and what acts they do to fight their rights as human being that should be equally treated. In the movie *Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts*, the aspects of oppression can be seen. This study aimed to find out how Marlina, the main character of the movie suffered and struggled by using the feminist point of view. This study entitled "Marlina's Struggle against Woman Oppression in *'Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts'* movie has never been conducted by other researchers before.

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B. The Problems of the Study

Based on those considerations, the researcher formulated statement of the problems as followed:

- (1) What were the forms of oppressions that Marlina get?
- (2) Why did she experience the oppressions?
- (3) How did Marlina struggle against the oppressions?

C. The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems above, the objectives of this study were to find out:

- (1) To describe the forms of oppressions that Marlina get
- (2) To explain the reason Marlina experience the oppressions
- (3) To know the ways Marlina struggles against the oppressions

D. The Scope of the Study

In relation to keep the study is staying on the focus, the limitation of the study is needed. This study investigated woman oppression that happened toward Marlina in "*Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts*" movie by Mouly Surya. In this case, the researcher only discussed Marlina's struggle against the oppression and sexual abuse. The researcher used the Young (1990) perspective as the theory to analyze the movie.

E. The Significances of the Study

This study was expected to give the contribution theoretically and practically to the readers. Theoretically, the results of the study were expected to provide a contribution to the developing the study and analysis on literary research related to the study of feminism on "*Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts*" movie by Mouly Surya. The researcher expected that it could give knowledge to the readers about the way Marlina struggled her life as a woman.

Practically, the results of this research are expected as the reference in analyzing literary works especially from feminism and oppression stand points, lecturing about feminism movement and in conducting a research about Mouly Surya movie from different perspectives.

