

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, people have become more aware of feminism, and women are more encouraged to be involved in the public sphere, such as by attending school, working outside the home, pursuing their dreams and careers, and even involving themselves in the political space. Women today are more conscious of themselves. They know that they can choose what identity they want to realize and pursue. It indicates that women are now more aware of the emancipation of women in the form of changing roles for women than what society has constructed about their gender role. Women have the right to express themselves freely, and men and women must be treated equally in society.

As women are considered a weaker sex, both physically and morally, they are often considered more suitable for domestic work. In addition to counterbalancing the moral decay of the public sphere in which their husbands labored, they are also required to prepare the next generation to maintain this culture. As a result, at that time, women were denied the right to vote due to their great influence at home (Hughes, 2014).

One of the most common forms of discrimination that is always happening in our society and generally occurs against women is gender inequality. According to Jha & Nagar (2015), gender inequality is the unequal treatment of men and women in various areas, including social, political, and cultural. Gender

issues are described as concerns involving unfairness that affect both men and women, with a disproportionately detrimental impact on women. This became a community misperception, causing women to be placed in uncomfortable positions in the future. Women are not given the option to pick their jobs and are limited to home jobs or roles that appear feminine. Gender equality entails men and women having equal power and opportunities in all aspects of life, including finances, education, and self-development. The realization of gender equality is the absence of discrimination between men and women.

Men usually try to dominate women by creating rules that make them dependent on them. As a result, women are subject to male dominance and a loss of independence. The condition of women, who frequently encounter oppression all the time, teaches women to struggle against the gender inequalities they face (Beauvoir, 2010).

The media plays an important role in delivering certain messages or ideologies to an audience. Movies, as a product of popular culture, always have a message to convey to the audience. Previously, the Hollywood cinema industry was dominated by men for a long time. Let alone the creation of female characters, women in the cinema were often portrayed as weak figures that were victimized, sexualized, and oppressed in order to intensify the power of the male. However, later in the decade, numerous films started to make actual points of view about women. A movie is a literary work that needs and is interesting to analyze. According to Perdana (2012), a movie is a medium for conveying multiple messages to an audience through a media tale. Women's representation in

the movie industry, both nationally and internationally, frequently receives negative stereotypes rather than positive ones. When women appear on film, they are frequently perceived as just selling their beauty and sexiness. In the world of movies, images of sex objects, victims, or the weak in comparison to men constantly oppress women.

The American filmmaking era attained its early development in the 1970s, which is commonly known as the Hollywood New Wave (Smith, 2010). However, there were still some limitations on the roles of women on screen. In this period, which occurred during the women's liberation movement, the role of women was often subordinated to the role assigned to men. Hollywood filmmaking, which was dominated by men, made feminists demand the liberation of women by pointing out the objectification concepts of depicting women on screen, a depiction of women that is considered very unrealistic and false.

Enola Holmes 2 is a 2022 American mystery movie that was released on October 27th, 2022. This film is based on Nancy Springer's novel *The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery*, which was first released in 2006. Directed by Harry Bradbeer, this movie is a movie partnership between Warner Bros. and Netflix under the house production of Legendary Entertainment, based in California. This movie has a running time of 130 minutes and was originally planned for theatrical release by Warner Bros. Pictures, which was taken over and distributed by Netflix. As the film takes place in the early 19th century, depictions of Victorian-era gender roles are still very apparent in the storyline.

The popularity of the film *Enola Holmes 2* does not only stop at the ratings but also at the various public responses regarding this movie. Many audiences agree that the movie, starting with Millie Bobby Brown, strongly discusses the feminist movement and depicts women against gender inequality in the late 19th century. The creation of the character of Enola Holmes as a young female detective brings an update to Hollywood cinema regarding how Hollywood presents the masculine female protagonist character in cinema. In the *Enola Holmes 2* movie, the audience is invited to understand the gender inequality experienced by the female character in a unique narrative unlike any other genre film. Moreover, the preferred choice of the *Enola Holmes 2* movie as the object of research study rather than the novel is by reason of the movie's popularity as an American cultural product, which is considered more able to visualize the story. Thus, this research is conducted with the purpose of explaining the portrayal of gender inequality experienced by female characters in the movie.

The Indonesian film industry is getting better and making a positive contribution from time to time, even though it must be admitted that until now we are still inferior to foreign films, both in terms of quality and quantity. Local films can be said to be lagging behind. The Indonesian film industry has lost in terms of funds; it is very different from Hollywood, which has made films a big industry, but in terms of creativity and human resources. Many Indonesian films are considered good in terms of quality and have succeeded in international film festivals; even these films come from independent filmmakers, not from large production houses. To support the progress of Indonesian filmmaking, it is hoped

that the government will be able to make rules that can make this competition healthy and, of course, increase the quality and quantity of local films. As written in Law No. 33 of 2009, cinemas must show 60 percent of national films. By giving a lot of space for local films to be shown, it will certainly raise the enthusiasm of filmmakers to make quality films that are ready to compete.

Harry Bradbeer, the director of the movie, states in his interview that in directing this movie, he is going to make it in the eccentric feminist adventure genre. Bradbeer is very conscious of breaking stigma and discrimination against women; he persistently shows feminist representation in the *Enola Holmes 2* movie. In terms of awards, the film *Enola Holmes 2* has won and been nominated for various international awards, including the International Film Music Critics Award (IFMCA) 2023 for Best Original Score for an Action or Adventure Film. Further, the *Enola Holmes 2* movie was also nominated in the Irish Film and Television Awards for Best Costume Design by Consolata Boyle. Along with these achievements, *Enola Homes 2* also won the Kid's Choice Awards USA for Favorite Movie Actress for Millie Bobby Brown.

The issue discussed in the *Enola Holmes 2* movie is about the struggle and equality of women's and workers' rights in the 19th century, whereas the reality of American society's life still applies its patriarchal culture. This film tells the story of women who are underestimated in any job, even though they have the same abilities as men. Bradbeer's depicts the struggle of women to achieve equality through scenes of labor resistance at the match factory by Sarah Chapman, the grassroots movement led by Eudoria Enola's mother, as well as Enola's own

persistence in breaking down existing norms that position women as inferior. The issue of gender inequality needs to be studied because it is an interesting one and needs to be raised. To find out the types of gender inequality experienced by female characters in the Enola Holmes 2 movie, the researcher used the theory by Walby (1991) that there are six types of gender inequality: paid work, household production, culture, sexuality, violence, and the state. Picture 1.1 below is an example of preliminary data that was obtained and analyzed using the types of gender inequality described by Walby (1991).



Picture 1.1 Preliminary Data

In this scene, which is played at 02.27, the scene tells of the early career of Enola, who opened a detective agency after successfully solving a big case in the first movie "Enola Holmes". However, Enola is actually underestimated because she is a woman, and many of them only acknowledge the work of Sherlock Holmes, Enola's older brother, when the first case is successfully completed, even though Enola played a significant role in her first case, but no one cares about that. This scene clearly illustrates that jobs that are suitable for women in terms of feminine traits, such as nurses, secretaries, and teachers, are not considered too masculine.

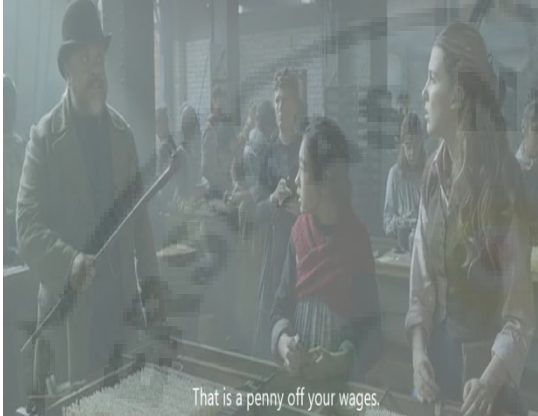
	<p>In this scene, gender inequality can be analyzed from the way women are exploited through paid work. In the scene when the factory administrator gives small wages and even cuts the wages of female workers at the factory. The scene shows how the capitalist work system exploits women workers because they feel they are a subordinate group and considered weak.</p>
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Table 1.1 Preliminary Data

After receiving unfair treatment as a woman, Sarah Chapman's sister looks silent but she tries to help Enola Holmes to find evidence of her sister's presence in the factory administrator's office to show the truth that the injustice committed against Sarah Chapman belongs to the Gender Inequality.

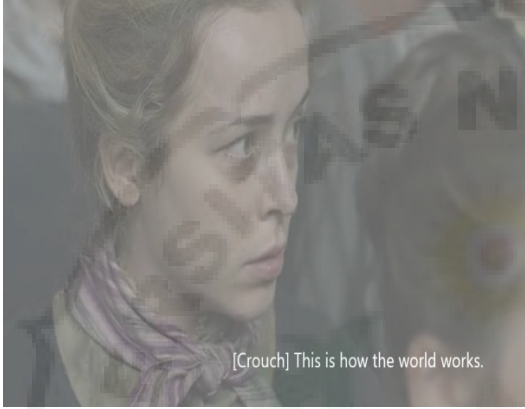
	<p>In this scene, when the male workers in the factory control how the women act against their will because for him that's how the world should work. In films, men occupy the role of corporate capitalists, earning much higher salaries than women. This is what can be used to control women so that a paradigm emerges that men are more dominant among paid workers compared to women.</p>
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Table 1.2 Preliminary Data

In the previous research, to be specific, entitled "The Struggle of Women Against Gender Inequality in Ruth Ware's *The Woman in Cabin 10*" written by Muniroh (2020), the research result represented a female character who tries to fight for her rights and faces five problems: marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and double burden. This previous study focuses on types of gender inequality and how women struggle against it. Meanwhile, this research has a different perspective when analyzing the data by using gender inequality theory to know how the female characters in the movie fight against gender inequality and also how the language used by female characters in the movie *Enola Holmes 2*.

B. Problem of the Study

This researcher has forms problem statement of this study, as follows:

1. What are the concepts of gender inequality in Harry Bradbeer's movie "Enola Holmes 2"?
2. How is woman against gender inequality realized in Harry Bradbeer's movie "Enola Holmes 2"?

C. Objectives of the Study

According to the problem formulation above, this undergraduate thesis aims to identify two objectives, as follows:

1. To find out the concept of gender inequality in Harry Bradbeer's movie "*Enola Holmes 2*"?
2. To analyze how the woman against gender inequality realized in Harry Bradbeer's movie "*Enola Holmes 2*"?

D. The Scope of the Study

The scope of the study focuses on the types of gender inequality and how women against gender inequality experienced the female characters realization of gender inequality, as well as the woman's language used in Harry Bradbeer's movie "Enola Holmes 2"

E. The Significance of the Study

The finding of this study has two terms of significance, theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically, the findings of this study are expected to be used to develop and increase knowledge about the findings of women's against

gender inequality and to contribute to research and theories in gender inequality.

2. Practically

a. Readers

It is hoped the findings of this research can be useful for readers especially for woman, to know what are rights of woman and what woman have to against for in getting these rights in the gap between gender

b. Next researcher

It also hoped that this research can be used to develop and provide inspiration with similar ideas

