

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

A movie, also known as a film, is a form of visual storytelling that combines moving images, audio, and other cinematic techniques to create a narrative or convey a message. Movies are typically presented in a sequential manner, with a series of scenes or shots edited together to form a cohesive story. They can be fictional or based on real events, and they cover a wide range of genres, including drama, comedy, action, horror, and more.

In this world, patriarchal culture has been passed down from generation to generation, until now. Literally, the term 'patriarchy' is interpreted as "rule of the father" and was originally used as a term for a family where all the rules were determined and dominated by men. In a contemporary sense, patriarchy can now be interpreted as male domination in various aspects which then places women in a subordinate or lower position. This makes the position of women who are always humiliated, in the family, the world of politics, education, and the world of work. The feminist movement began at the end of the 18th century and developed rapidly throughout the 20th century, starting with the voice of equal political rights for women. Mary Wollstonecraft's writing entitled *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* is considered as one of the early feminist works which contains criticism of the French Revolution which only applies to men but not to women.

Feminism is a social and political movement that advocates for gender equality and the dismantling of oppressive systems based on gender. Feminist theory encompasses a range of perspectives and approaches that analyze and challenge the unequal power dynamics and social structures that disadvantage women and marginalized genders.

Mary Wollstonecraft, an influential feminist thinker from the 18th century, is often considered one of the founding figures of feminist theory. Her seminal work, "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (1792), lays out her feminist arguments and principles. Wollstonecraft argued that women are fundamentally equal to men in their capacity for reason and moral agency. She criticized the prevailing societal belief that women were intellectually inferior and argued for equal educational opportunities. Wollstonecraft believed that women should receive a comprehensive education, which would enable them to participate fully in society and contribute to the public sphere. Wollstonecraft emphasized the importance of cultivating rationality and virtue in both men and women. She believed that individuals should strive for moral excellence and act in accordance with reason and conscience, rather than blindly following societal conventions or personal desires.

Movie is one of the communication media in which it always tells a situation, and there are implicit and explicit messages. One of the Hollywood films with the concept of princess production from Walt Disney, "Mulan". Mulan live-action version, released in 2020, tells the story of a young Chinese woman who disguises herself as a man to take her father's place in the army. She proves her bravery and intelligence, ultimately saving China from invasion. The film also promotes the idea that women can be just as capable as men, emphasizing the importance of individual abilities and skills rather than gender. Mulan's journey and her eventual acceptance by her comrades in the army convey a message of gender equality and breaking down gender stereotypes. The circumstances and situations in this film really show conditions in the real world, where a woman cannot get the same rights as a man.

Based on previous study, feminism theory can be used as a tool for analysing the role of women in society. The study from S. Indira Supit, Marwinda Kristin, (2021) titled "Stereotypes and Feminism in The Movie Mulan by Walt Disney" concludes that women can also participate in public and society when they are given the same

opportunity as men. Mulan is the representation of a tough and brave woman. Liberal feminist theory is used as an approach in this paper.

Another previous study by Zembat Muhammad, (2017) on the journal article titled “An Analysis of The Concept of The Theory of Feminism And Historical Changing and Developments of Feminism” finds that feminist struggle against gender inequalities in every sector in public. It indicated that this problem happens on Mulan movie. The message about feminism in the story convey that women should have the same rights as men in the society.

Given these circumstances and conditions, it is important to carry out this research, by taking from movies that have been watched by many people, in order to make it easier to understand the importance of the equal position of women and men, based on the theory of feminism by Mary Wollstonecraft.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

The problem is to critically examine the portrayal of gender roles, agency, and empowerment in the movie "Mulan" through the lens of feminist theory, in order to assess the extent to which the film challenges or reinforces traditional gender norms and contributes to the promotion of gender equality. The following problems can be formulated:

1. What are the causes of discrimination faced by Mulan in Mulan Movie?
2. How does Mulan struggle against discrimination in accordance with feminism theory by Mary Wollstonecraft?
3. What are the kinds of gender equality portrayed by Mulan in Mulan Movie?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objective of analyzing the movie "Mulan" using feminist theory is to examine how the film portrays and challenges traditional gender roles, explores themes of female empowerment and agency, and contributes to broader discussions on gender equality and the dismantling of patriarchal norms. This study attempts to restate several of the questions that are raised as stated as follows:

1. Explain the reason why there is discrimination against Mulan in the Mulan Movie.
2. To explain how Mulan's stance against discrimination in accordance with the theory of Mary Wollstonecraft.
3. To find out the kinds of gender equality portrayed by Mulan, in Mulan Movie.

1.4. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study in analyzing the Mulan movie using feminism theory would involve examining the film's portrayal of gender roles, power dynamics, and women's empowerment through the lens of feminist theory.

1.5. Significance of the Study

A study analyzing the Mulan movie through the lens of feminism theory holds several significant implications. The study can contribute to a deeper understanding of how gender roles and stereotypes are portrayed in mainstream media. By examining Mulan's character and her journey, the study can shed light on how films challenge or perpetuate traditional gender norms, providing insights into the ways in which media shapes societal perceptions of gender.

Mulan's story is rooted in Chinese culture, and analyzing the film's feminist themes within this context can shed light on the representation of women in non-Western cultures. This can challenge the Western-centric perspectives often dominant in feminist discourse and contribute to a more inclusive understanding of feminism.

Examining the reception of Mulan and its feminist themes can provide insights into how audiences perceive and interpret gender representation in film. This understanding of the audience's response to feminist narratives can help shape future media production and highlight the importance of diverse and empowering portrayals of women in the entertainment industry.

Feminism provides teenage girls with a framework to understand and challenge the social, cultural, and institutional barriers they may encounter based on their gender. By learning about feminist principles, they can gain a sense of empowerment, agency, and self-confidence, enabling them to navigate and overcome gender-related challenges. Feminism encourages girls to question societal expectations and norms surrounding beauty standards and body image. It promotes the idea that girls should define themselves based on their talents, achievements, and character, rather than solely on their appearance. This understanding can foster a positive self-image and help teenage girls develop a healthy relationship with their bodies.

In summary, understanding this research is important for teenage girls as it provides them with tools for empowerment, self-identity, challenging stereotypes, pursuing education and career goals, fostering healthy relationships, promoting inclusivity, and actively participating in social change.

1.6. Approach to the Study

The approach used in this study is called context oriented approach. This approach is a theoretical approach to literature. Theoretical approach by interpreting literary works from several focuses such as text, reader, author and context-oriented.

A qualitative research analysis of the movie "Mulan" could involve examining various aspects of the film through the lens of feminist theory, cultural representation, and gender dynamics. Examine power dynamics and agency within the movie. Analyze how Mulan navigates and challenges patriarchal authority, both within her family and society at large. Explore how the film empowers Mulan and other female characters to assert their agency and make significant decisions.

This analysis will be completed using Mary Wollstonecraft's theory of feminism, in the scope of Equality and Reason, about women are fundamentally equal to men in their capacity for reason and moral agency. She criticized the prevailing societal belief that women were intellectually inferior and argued for equal educational opportunities. Wollstonecraft believed that women should receive a comprehensive education, which would enable them to participate fully in society and contribute to the public sphere.

The second type is Agency and Empowerment. Feminism recognizes the agency and autonomy of women and marginalized genders. It emphasizes the importance of empowering individuals to make choices about their bodies, careers, and lives without facing societal constraints or discrimination. Feminist theory promotes the idea that individuals should have the freedom to determine their own paths.

1.7. Organization of the Paper

This research will be organized into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. The introduction sets the context for the research by providing background information, stating the research problem or question, and explaining the significance and objectives of the study. It may also include a literature review that summarizes previous studies related to the topic.

The second chapter is synopsis and biography. In this stage, will explain the synopsis of the entire movie. The readers will be informed through the research background that the synopsis of the movie being observed is the life action version of

Mulan. This stage will help the reader to understand the synopsis, and how the movie is connected to feminism theory.

The third chapter is Literature review. Literature review refers to the body of established theories, concepts, principles, and frameworks that provide the basis for understanding and interpreting a particular subject or research area. In this section, it will explain the meaning of Feminism theory by Mary Wollstonecraft, and how this theory is interpreted in the subject under study, which is Mulan movie.

The fourth chapter is findings and discussion. This section presents the results and findings of the research. The results organized logically and presented in a clear and concise manner. The discussion section interprets the results and places them in the context of existing knowledge.

The final chapter, is conclusion. The conclusion is the final section that summarizes the main findings, discusses their implications, and provides a closing statement. The purpose of the conclusion is to bring together the key points and arguments presented in the paper and provide a concise and coherent ending to the research. The conclusion ends with a concise and memorable closing statement that reinforces the main message or significance of the research. It may emphasize the importance of the findings, their potential impact, or the broader implications for the field of study.