

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I is the beginning part of this study. This chapter contains the introduction of the study that regarded as the basis for the researcher in writing the study. It explains the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, approach to the study, and organization of the paper. Those explanations are there in seven subsections as follows:

1.1 Background of the Study

Human are meant to live as social being since thousands year ago. Every individual should get along each other by having interactions in order to fulfill their needs, develop themselves, and reaching their goals. Yet, in reality, human interaction activities are not always running well. There always be parties who win and lose because of the existence of different classes, social statuses, ideologies, perspectives, and power. Therefore, it triggers conflicts and discriminations among societies.

Conflict and discrimination are two obstacles that create disharmony situation in human interactions. Disharmony situations possibly appear in any relationships of groups of people; including the relationship between man and woman in society. Disharmony between man and woman can also called as “gender-based discrimination”. Gender-based discrimination is an example of conflicts which exist in society in which positions one of the genders over

another. This phenomenon comes to the result that status difference between man and woman in society is created. One tends to be the dominant and powerful, while another one tends to be the submissive and should not be powerful.

Gender-based discrimination is one of many kinds of discrimination ever exist in this universe. It has been a crucial issue yet it is also often ignored by society. This phenomenon happens because the ideology of patriarchy has made it be a common thing in society. The patriarchy ideology influences and creates such a hegemony to people in their behavior, way of life, and social structure. Then, it becomes a social standard in many patriarchal societies, and most people accept it as a part of culture and custom that nurtured continuously from the ancestors to the offsprings. Therefore, it creates a sexist mindset in society which follow this way of life. It comes to the result that men become the dominant who are superior to women, while women become the subordinate who are inferior to men. Gender equality means nothing in society with patriarchy ideology.

According to its meaning, gender is a socially constructed term for attitudes, activities, roles and traits that are considered appropriate for men and women (Shastri, 2014:27). Discrimination itself defined as a hindrance on achieving the objectives of equality, peace, and development (Pokharel, 2008:1). While, gender-based discrimination is inequality which exists between two sexes which are men and women.

Talking about gender-based discrimination in the movie *On the Basis of Sex* (2018), which is the analysis object of this research, also has reciprocal relationship with gender-based discrimination in real life society. The storyline of the movie adapted from the experience of American women activist, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who courageously revealed the fact of gender-based discrimination that happened in the United States in the 20th century. She tried to find justice over gender-based discriminations in the country. In this case, the gender-based discrimination not only happen to women but also men that in the movie experienced by Charles Moritz, a man who asked for tax deduction. Therefore, there is a close relationship between the movie and the society, especially among American society.

Gender-based discrimination which is the topic of this research, will be analyzed using the point of view of feminism. Feminism itself is closely related to the issue of discrimination based on sex, especially discrimination against women, which occurs in various parts of the world. The existence of feminist ideology or movement is considered to be a way out of the problem of gender inequality which has been the cause of discrimination against women for centuries.

For centuries, in various cultures around the world, women are considered as submissive creatures whose existence is not as important as the existence of men who are the dominant party in society. The world of women is limited to domestic matters; taking care of children, cooking, cleaning the house, watering

the plants, etc. Women are not given the opportunity to have more room for movement, such as attending higher education, engaging in government structures, having the right to vote in elections, and taking roles in a higher realm than just taking care of domestic matters.

Therefore, based on the explanations above, the researcher chooses *Depictions of Gender-based Discriminations in the U.S. in Mimi Leder's On The Basis of Sex (2018): As a Feminism Study* as the title of the study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Statement provides the issues or problems which necessary to get solved. It contains the intention of the writer on discussing the topic. The questions of the research are written in this part of thesis. Below are the statements of the problem:

1. What are the causes of gender-based discriminations in the United States according to *On the Basis of Sex (2018)* movie?
2. How were gender-based discriminations in the United States depicted in the movie '*On the Basis of Sex (2018)*'?
3. How does the main character take action to overcome gender-based discriminations as depicted in *On the Basis of Sex (2018)* movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

An objective is a significant part of a study. This part can be the guide for the researcher to reach the purpose of the study and get it done. Below are the objectives of the study:

1. To find out the causes of gender-based discriminations in the United States according to *On the Basis of Sex (2018)* movie.
2. To find out the depictions of gender-based discriminations happens in the United States according to *On the Basis of Sex (2018)* movie.
3. To find out how the main character take action to overcome gender-based discriminations as depicted in *On the Basis of Sex (2018)* movie.

1.4 Scope of the Study

Making limitation of the discussed problem is much significant in arranging a thesis or any kinds of study, in order to keep it in boundaries. As written in the title, *Depictions of Gender-based Discriminations in the U.S. in Mimi Leder's On The Basis of Sex (2018): As a Feminism Study*, so the discussed problem focuses on gender-based discriminations that happened in the United States in 20th century as depicted in the movie. The researcher will focuses on showing the the causes also the depictions of gender-based discrimination that experienced by both female and male characters in the movie.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of this study will redounded to the findings that sexist culture is a negative thing and every individual, to be specific the readers of this study, should avoid it. Due to its effect in society that ends up with gender-based discrimination which happen to both men and women who do not behave as what they should be in patriarchal society.

This study attempts to provide the facts which show that gender-based discrimination is something people must be aware of. Especially to the women in worldwide, that has represented by the main character of the movie *On the Basis of Sex* (2018). Also, this study gives a sight to open up the mind of the readers and the society that gender-based discrimination has deeply rooted in many cultures which attacks both men and women.

Apart from those significances mentioned above, this study also hopefully can be a reference for the next researchers. Especially for the students of Faculty of Language and Cultural Studies of Stikubank University.

1.6 Approach to the Study

Approach is the key of doing analysis in a study. While the approach of this study uses feminism theory. According to Cambridge Dictionary, the meaning of feminism is the opinion that women should be permitted to have the same opportunities, rights, and power as men and be treated equally, or the set of activities in purpose to reach this state (dictionary.cambridge.org).

Until today, feminist movements have struggle and continue to struggle for women's rights, including the right to work, to vote, to hold public figure, to own property, to receive education, to earn equal pay, to have equal rights in marriage, and to have maternity leave. Feminists have also acted to ensure access to social integration and legal abortions, and to protect girls and women from any kinds of sexual abuse and domestic violence. (Echols, 1989:1967–1975)

In specific, the writer does the analysis based on Simone de Beauvoir's feminism theory. In her book entitled 'The Second Sex', specifically in the volume 1, she asserted that man is regarded as default, while woman is regarded as "Other"; an object whose existence is defined and interpreted by the male, who is the dominant in society. (De Beauvoir: 1949)

The data gathering and analysis of this research use qualitative method. According to Pope & Mays (1995), qualitative research is a concept development that assists us to understand social phenomenon in natural settings, providing appropriate emphasizing to the experiences, meanings, and the participant's views. Therefore, this research does not require numeric data.

The research is done by doing classification over the discourses and the scenes that cited in the movie script that related to the statements of the problem. Then, the researcher do the analysis by applying feminism approach through the gathered data. After doing analysis, the researcher takes conclusion and suggestion over the result of the analysis.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

This study will be divided into five chapters. The chapters detail are as follows:

Chapter I contains the introduction of the research. The researcher here provides the explanations of the background to the study, the statements of the problem, the objectives of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, and the organization of the paper.

Chapter II contains the synopsis of the object; a movie entitled *On the Basis of Sex*. Followed by the biography of the director, Mimi Leder.

Chapter III contains the review of related literature. This chapter contains subsections which are previous studies, popular culture, movie with its classifications and elaborations, character with its classifications and elaborations, setting with its classifications and elaborations, explanation of gender-based discrimination, and explanation about feminism both in common and according to Simone de Beauvoir.

Chapter IV contains the finding and discussion which are the analysis of the object using theory of feminism. This chapter discuss about the findings and discussions in order to provide the answers of the statements of the problem that has written in chapter I.

Chapter V contains the conclusion of the study that has done and the suggestion to the reader.