

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1 Background Of the Study**

Discrimination toward women is injustice behavior that violates human rights. Gender discrimination can also be interpreted as the treatment of someone who differentiates gender. In general, gender discrimination against female still occurs in various countries. Of course, this behavior can harm one parties, especially female. Discrimination against women is currently highly contested, however in various countries women still experience discrimination in several fields, for example in the political, economic, socio-cultural and civil fields. Gender differences should now begin to disappear in time, because the role of women in the progress of the nation in this era is not just giving birth, but today millennial women can participate in advancing the economy because they have two roles, namely taking care of the family and taking part in economy. Whatever the way of life, women today must be free to determine their dreams and participate in the public sphere. So in this thesis I will discuss gender discrimination against women, because this is a case that makes me interested in discussing it. I will analyze a film themed of gender discrimination entitled "On the Basis Of Sex".

The film *On the Basis of Sex* tells the story of someone who is a woman fighting for women's rights. The woman named Ruth Bader Ginsburg with a script written by Daniel Stiepleman. *On the Basis of Sex* began its storyline in 1956 when Ruth followed in the footsteps of her husband Martin Ginsburg who was a law major at Harvard University. In that era, women were still underestimated and

not often prioritized in various legal, social, and cultural activities. Ruth Ginsburg began to pay special attention to the laws and regulations in the United States which had been unjustly applied to women. At that time, many people opposed Ruth about her wishes to uphold women's rights, especially in the United States government. Ruth, who was supported by her husband Martin Ginsburg, continued to handle this case to uphold a woman's rights in the country. Although Ruth was often underestimated and harassed by people, she still tried to uphold the law and women's rights which she thinks are very unfair to women. Finally, Ruth's struggle was not in vain and bore fruit and even now she is the Supreme Judge at the Supreme Court of America. She also successfully passed to study law at Harvard. Moreover, she became a role model for women who are educating in the field of law because of his extraordinary career achievements. Ruth proved that a feminist as well as a mother and wife can carry out their roles properly, supported by a good support system.

The conflict in this story is the gender discrimination that Ruth experienced stepping her foot at Harvard University because Ruth became one of only nine women enrolled in a new class of around 500 men at Harvard Law School. Although Ruth was criticized by even the dean named Erwin Griswold for taking the place that was able to go to a man at Harvard because the campus preferred men over women. At Harvard University it is not surprising that the average students were male and there were only a few women. Ruth also had to deal with a series of sexist behaviors. Starting from her and her female friends was questioned with questions about the motivation of law school to get rejection in various workplaces on the grounds of "a woman". In the United States in that era

women were considered to have no expertise and in that era, the position of women in social life was still underestimated and often secondary in many legal, social and cultural activities.

I am interested in this film because this story is based on a true story as well as the figure of Ruth who inspired many people, especially women. This is because of her courage to uphold justice and oppose discrimination. In this era of discrimination also still occurs in various countries that should no longer exist. Even now, even though the law states that women and men have equal rights. However, this film is still interesting and important for those who do not understand about feminism and do not know that feminists who struggle so that women can have equal opportunities to get education and employment that are equal to men.

I take the theme of social discrimination toward women because at this time it still happens. Social discrimination is very unfairly applied to anyone, including women. I also want to force people so that social discrimination is not applied anymore, especially in our country.

## **1.2 Statement Of the Study**

Based on the background of the study above this research is arranged into two problem statements as follows :

1. What discrimination are found in the film “On the basis of sex” by Daniel Stiepleman

2. How does female characters fight against gender discrimination in the film “On the basis of sex” by Daniel Stiepleman.

### **1.3 Objective Of the Study**

This study has some research objectives of the study as follows:

1. To discuss about the discrimination are found in the film “On the basis of sex” by Daniel Stiepleman
2. To analyze the female characters fight against gender discrimination in the film “On the basis of sex” by Daniel Stiepleman

### **1.4 Scope Of the Study**

This study focuses on discrimination toward woman in the film “On the basis of sex” that was written by Daniel Stiepleman. It only discusses on the cause of discrimination toward woman, the actions of social discrimination and the effects of discrimination toward woman.

### **1.5 Significant Of the Study**

The title of the study is “Gender Discrimination toward Female Character in the film “On the basis of sex” by Daniel Stiepleman. A study on gender discrimination against women as a form of discrimination that occurs against women so that women are not given the opportunity to have a voice. It can be a reference for students to conduct a literary research that discuss women problem. For me this is also a reference to be used as a research material because the theme

of this film enters feminism with a type of discrimination, I have obtained this subject matter in the literature course last semester.

### **1.6 Approach Of the Study**

This title relates to the Simone De Beauvoir, the approach is feminism approach. This thesis related the theory of Simone de Beauvoir and she is a feminist icon. "Beauvoir said that "the source of women's oppression it is femininity historical and social." She began to declare their freedom in a blatant way, but unfortunately they did not, or could not enjoy the life they wanted as men. Wherever they go, the final line is always tangible in marriage. This means the same as recognizing male domination. This is what men really want to maintain because they also want to maintain social foundations. The theory can also be concluded as social discrimination because of the oppression of women.

### **Research methods**

Searching about feminism theory and I found the theory of Simone de Beauvoir. Find out about she was born in Paris, France, in 1908. She was probably best known as a novelist, and a feminist thinker and writer, but she was also an existentialist philosopher in her own right and, like her lover Sartre, thought a lot about the human struggle to be free. Reading the book summary of Simone de Beauvoir. There are lot books of Simone de Beauvoir but the book related with woman discrimination is the second sex. Then, reading the content of Second of Sex. After that analyzing the contents of book "second of sex" with theme of social discrimination towards female character that I research. Last, analyzing this thesis with script.

## **1.7 Organization Of the Paper**

The organization of this research is explained so that readers can more easily understand the contents of the paper. The organization are as follows: Chapter I is Introduction that consists of background to 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. Chapter II discusses on synopsis of the work and biography of the author. Chapter III is review of related literature that consist previous studies, definition of study, characters, setting, conflict, feminism (definition & theory) and gender discrimination (definition & theory). Chapter IV is analysis and discussion. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.



