

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Gender discrimination is unequal or disadvantageous treatment of an individual or group of individuals based on gender (Maroto et al., 2019). Gender discrimination can be in many ways. It is based on her or his genders; they are suffering from it in several causes. Especially for women, they are mostly getting discrimination in several aspects such as education, workplace, marriage and other things. The position of women in society mostly is controlled by men and women do not have freedom of their life. Women have struggled for equality and against oppression for centuries. This is including of freedom of living without violence and discrimination.

Due to of that cases it means that women still have some discrimination even right now we have law for it (Bunch, 1990). For example in big city like New York there are some cases that women treated differently than men. Even they have same job there is difference in payment. Women will have payment less than men. Other example discrimination is when women have interview they will be asked if they married or they already have children. Even like time require is shorter than men. For the law of employment there are many of it, but some company illegally have their decision to make women treated differently.

For the phenomenon of gender discrimination above, there are many movies having some theme gender discrimination, for example *Hidden Figures*, *Bombshell*, *Legally Blonde*, *Suffragette* and *Little Women*. Based on the example of a film that depicts gender discrimination, I took *Little Woman* to show the discrimination towards women that is shown through this film.

*Little Women* is one of coming-of-age period drama film. This movie was directed by Greta Gerwig. *Little Women* (2019) is the seventh film adaptation on the same novel by Louisa May Alcott. Greta Gerwig wanted to take the setting look like in that time of novel, she make the detail inspiration using the novel. *Little Women* premiered at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City on December 7, 2019. This film received critical claim, which is good of performance of the cast.

This movie tells about life the four girls in New York. The time was after the World War 2. The character names are Jo, Beth, Amy, Meg, Laurence, Ms. March, her Aunty, Frederic and other. This story wants to describe about feminism in that era, women do not have power to get work that men have, especially for Jo, and she is writer. For example, she wants to publish her short story, but she cannot because she is women and her story does not have characteristic to that era. She wants to criticize about women who have power and do not need to get married. But as always her book cannot publish before she rewrites it. Feminism in this story, Jo sister, who is Amy, she wants to learn drawing, painting and etc. but she is woman. Before she goes to the France she cannot learn normal at that time. In the end Amy

just married and goes to the New York. For the Jo, she practically succeeds because she has basic teacher and she gets house from Aunt March, she builds school to children.

Based on those statements, researcher want to analysis the gender discrimination toward women in film *Little Women*, especially the character Jo who is the main lead in this movie. She gets the discrimination when she wants to publish her book because it contains of the movement of women in that era.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Base on the background above it has study of feminism that can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the causes of gender discrimination in *Little Women* Movie?
2. What are the impacts of gender discrimination in *Little Women* Movie?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

This study as connected to respond the research question stated in the statement of the problems. The objectives are formulated as follows:

1. To find out the cause of gender discrimination in *Little Women* Movie.

2. To find out the impacts of gender discrimination in *Little Women* Movie.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This study is limited to discuss about the cause of gender discrimination in *Little Women* (2019), and the impacts of gender discrimination that are related to the female character Jo in *Little Women* (2019).

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The result of this study will be finding about the cause of gender discrimination in *Little Women* movie. As a result of gender discrimination, women get various kinds of things that are not profitable, such as in the work place, women will get less salary than men. The positions obtained are also increasingly limited because women think they do not deserve it.

As the result researcher can find this research will provide benefits for women in a society that awareness in gender equality is important. In this millennial era, researcher can express our opinion well that women have equal role to men in society.

The thing that causes gender discrimination is the inherent notion that women and men have roles that cannot be changed. Patriarchal thinking in society that is more dominant makes women feel unfair. In this study, we will discuss the injustice experienced by Jo's character in the *Little Women* movie. The injustice she experienced is a reflection of life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 1.6 Approach to the Study

The research will use the feminism theory in analyzing main character in the film *Little Women*. The research applied Judith Butler in her book: *Gender Trouble* (Butler, 1990). Butler said that one in all the central assumptions of feminist theory is that there still exists an identity and a subject matter that need representation in politics and language. Butler views "women" and "women" as categories that are complicated by elements such as class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. However, the claimed universality of these phrases mimics the assumed patriarchal universality and erases the specificity of oppression in different historical periods and geographical locations. Butler rejects identity politics in favor of coalition feminism as a substitute, which declines the notion of gender identity. She questions common beliefs that sex and gender difference in important ways—that sex is biological while gender is culturally constructed.

This research will be identifying the cause and impact gender discrimination in *Little Woman* movie. For the data researcher will find it from watching movie, read the script, identifying the object and then researcher can find the gender discrimination towards the character Jo's.

The data that researcher will use for this study is qualitative method. Careswell said that qualitative research is a research method to explore and understand the meaning that some individuals or groups of people think come from social or human problems (Martin et al., 2013). Therefore the analysis will describe the phenomenon of gender discrimination.

This study will discuss the events experienced in the *Little Women* movie by examining the scenes in the script that relate to gender discrimination. The analysis will be linked to the theory used. After combining the two, it will be known that in today's life they are still very attached to society which will be concluded at the end of the study.

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This study will be divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction. This chapter contains of background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, approach of the study, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II contains of the synopsis *Little Women* movie and the biography of Greta Gerwid.

Chapter III contains of reviews of related literature. It contains previous studies, popular culture, movie, gender discrimination, impact of gender discrimination, and women condition in England in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Chapter IV contains of finding and discussion.

Chapter V contains of conclusion and suggestion.