

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Every human being basically has the equal roles in the society. Women and men have a right to participate in public and private life without any restrictions or prohibitions. However, in many societies, men are regarded more superior than women. It means men have a right to control women. As a result, women cannot control their life, and they have to accept all men's orders without any right to reject the orders. For example, the patriarchy system in New Zealand film, *Whale Rider*.

The patriarchy system is a social system in which men have a role to organize all the social elements, including controlling women. Women have to follow all the rules or orders given by men, so that the freedom of women to gain equal role is difficult to achieve. For years after the declaration, American women become the second class of civilization, while men become first class of civilization. This stratification happens because American society holds the patriarchy system as their system in the society.

One of many factors in which women are regarded as the second class of civilization is the family. Family is a social institution in which every person learns about their values in the society, including learning about the roles of women and men. In the family, parents also direct the individual who was born as men to behave

as leaders in family or social life, while for women; parents lead them for being dependent on men and do their roles as domestic caretakers. As an effect, women cannot access the whole social elements, such as public roles in leadership.

Leadership is an abstract concept. It means the definition of leadership is widespread, and the definition depends on the context of particular issues. However, in general, a definition of leadership is a set of actions and process, performed by individuals, who have the capacity to create a vision for change, develop ideas, and strategies that enable others to work towards that changes, and make critical decision to achieve the goal (Batliwala, 2010:8). It means that leadership is a process which has goals to change or develop some ideas that has been practiced. For example, leadership in women context tends to look into women's movement to fight with patriarchal values in the society. For that reason, leadership in women is their struggle for gaining equality, which also means women fight for their roles, which are only dealing with a child and a household, are constructed by the patriarchal values —to gain their equal roles in the society. By their demand on equal roles in the society, women express their demand from time to time, and it starts from the family. In the family, they start to express their opinions related to men's decisions and reject their decisions which are inappropriate to the family.

Gender inequality is a social condition where men are more dominant than women. It means men consider as a first class while women as the second class, as this in line with Walby's statement —subordination is to put women under male

supremacy(1990:54). It means men should be in charge of a family and public or social role, while women are in charge with the kids and only in kitchen. Men can order women while women should follow what men order to them.

In literature, women's spirit to gain equal roles gets many responses from literary authors. Many authors respond to it by creating literary works that tell about women's experiences, such as being tortured and restricted by men in patriarchal system. Many authors dare to write about the women's condition and their struggles to face the unfair treatment because they are aware of the equality between men and women. Witi Ihimaera is one of the authors who dares to tell about women. He writes stories about the portrayal of women in the patriarchal system and a woman's effort to gain the equal roles. Among many of his novels, *The Whale Rider* is a novel which is adapted into a film in 2002 – is a unique film to be analyzed related to women's movement. It is unique because it was written by a man who illustrates the changing role of women. Moreover, the patriarchal system is still practiced in the society – when the novel was published, in 1987.

Whale Rider film was a 2002 New Zealand-German family drama film directed by Niki Caro – and the film script written by Niki Caro. The story was based on the novel of the same title by Witi Ihimaera – *Whale Rider*. It was premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 9th, 2002. The film was a coproduction between New Zealand and Germany, it was shot on location in Whangara, the setting of the novel.

Whale Rider film is a depiction of an effort of the main female character, Paikea Apirana (Pai) to gain the equal roles and become the next leader in the tribe. Pai is a twelve years old girl who is the only living child in the line of the tribe's leader succession following the death of her twin brother and mother when she was born. Pai's grandfather, Koro, the current leader of the Maori tribe, who believes in the tradition, that the leader should be the first-born son a direct patrilineal descendant of Paikea (he; who rode on top of a whale) –is initially disappointed at losing his grandson and being left with a female child; Pai. He forbids Paito do like what the boys do in the tribe, such as following the lesson that Koro taught for the boys to be the next leader. Pai, who usually obeys her grandfather, is brave enough to fight the tradition of what her grandfather's belief (he, the first-born a direct patrilineal descendant of Paikea who should be the next leader).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

A statement of the problem is used in research work as a claim that outlines the problem addressed by a study. According to the background of the study above, the writer will specify the research for these following statements:

1. What gender inequality does the main female character face to be the leader in *Whale Rider* filmscript?
2. What are the efforts of the main female character to be the leader in *Whale Rider* filmscript?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This research purpose is to discover two things based on the statement of the problem on film directed by Niki Caro “*Whale Rider*”:

1. To find out the problems that the main female character faces to be the leader in *Whale Rider* filmscript.
2. To find out the efforts of the main female character to be the leader in *Whale Rider* filmscript.

1.4 Scope to the Study

In arranging this research, limitation of the problems is needed. The topic of this research is about women’s effort to be the leader. In this research, the writer will discuss the problems which the main female character in *Whale Rider* film will face, and the efforts that the main female character does in *Whale Rider* film to be the leader.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to give advantages for the readers and also to give the positive things, as follows:

1. To the writer, as worth experience in literary field the writer tried to do research using literary work as an object.
2. To the students, as a reference in studying English literary work.

1.6 Technique of Data Collection

The subject of this research that the write used was *Whale Rider* film. The primary data of this research is the film's script of *Whale Rider* and some from *Whale Rider* film's scene. The supporting data will be obtained from the writer's observation of the film and some sources, such as books, article, and journals which related to gender inequality.

In this research, there was several steps method to collect which the writer did:

1. Watching the film till the end (1 hour 45 minutes).
2. Coding the film script, making interpretation and conclusion trough identification the specification the specific characteristic was used.
3. The data analysis was conducted using feminism approach.

1.7 Approach of the Study

To analyze women's effort to be the leader of the main female character in *Whale Rider* film script, the researcher will use feminism approach. Feminism approach is an approach that emphasizes the feminism aspect in literary work. To

analyze the problem and the objective of the study of the main female character, it will use the elaboration with feminist leadership.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

To make this research systematic and easy to read, the organization of the research may firstly be explained in general. This research is organized in the following:

Chapter I: Introduction. The introduction lays the groundwork for this research. It gives an overview of the research which consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope to the study, significance of the study, approach of the study, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II: Synopsis of the work and biography of the author. In this chapter the writer writes about the synopsis of *Whale Rider* film and biography of author which direct *Whale Rider* film.

Chapter III: Review of related literature. This chapter provides previous studies, literature, film, character and feminism.

Chapter IV: Finding and discussion. In this chapter the writer will analyze and discuss about the work – *Whale Rider* films script, which related to feminist theories.

Chapter V: Conclusion and suggestion. This is the last chapter which consists of conclusion and suggestion of the work; it also provides some of the writer's personal thoughts.