

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

At recent days, discrimination is behaviour that becomes an everyday reality and still happens anywhere. Everybody has the right to be respected and treated fairly by others. When someone feels discriminated, it means they are being treated badly or unfairly and their human right has been violated by others.

Discrimination is treating a person or particular group differently, because of their skin color, religion, sex, sexuality etc as state in Cambridge dictionary. Meanwhile definition of gender discrimination is a situation in person who treated less well and does not get same equality of right between men and women in a group, status, race, education, and occupation.

Accessed on :

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gender-discrimination>

Gender discrimination is recognized as a form of inequality and problems for women throughout the world. This affects the capacity of women to participate freely and fully while limiting their space for daily activities. According to the *Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* in article 1 state “discrimination against women” means if any discrepancy, exclusion or control made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of destroying or invalidating the admission, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, basis on equality of men and women,

human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. Accessed on : (www.ohchr.org)

There are several types of gender discrimination which often happen in daily life, such as discrimination in education, discrimination in employment, wage discrimination, and maternity and pregnancy discrimination of work. A half of the world's population consists of women, whom until now are still considered different and unequal to men in many sectors such as education, occupation, economic and social cultures, gender imbalance can also threaten women rights and obligations as equal creatures as men. The reason why this discrimination happens is the culture. In the culture, the work of women is at home and the work of men is in society or community. Women are not just considered to be physically weak, but also considered to be weak in everything when compared with men and that is how the society treats them. Accessed on :(www.ohchr.org)

In literary works, some issues of women are often discussed not only in novels, but also in movies. Movies are another alternative media for narrating stories and a new way for people to enjoy new works of art while taking advantage of the growing technological sophistication. Therefore, the portrayals of women in literary works are diverse. The diversity of female figures present in is not only related to names and characters, but also the conflicts that are built. One of the conflicts which is often described is discrimination. Discrimination often appears, for example stereotypes of women and violence against women. One of the movies that reveals the issue of gender discrimination is *Hidden Figures* directed by Theodore Melfi.

The movie pictured real events of gender discrimination that happened in African-American women who works as a “computer” in NASA, they are Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughan. At 1960s, gender discrimination was indeed still strong in America. Many of women are distinguished from men, they want to against the struggle to get equality rights as men.

Accessed on :

<http://margotleeshetterly.com/hidden-figures-nasas-african-american-computers>

Taraji P. Henson as Kathrine Johnson is the main character in this movie. She is a single mother with three children. Her brilliant ability in terms of mathematics made her elected into the Space Task Group at NASA, she must work in Space Task where her co-workers are all white men. This label that made it difficult for her had to be accepted in her group. This makes her uncomfortable but Kathrine still tries and proves her ability in count orbit of mathematics which has a mission to bring human around the earth’s orbit.

In addition to Kathrine, Melfi is also bringing up the roles of other important woman, they are Mary Jackson (Janelle Monae) and Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer). Mary also had a struggle to become the first female engineer to achieve her dreams. It took hard efforts to be accepted in tertiary education which specially it is university just for men, also she received a rejection because her gender. Throughout the years, Mary shows that with enough determination,

will, and patience, anything can be accomplished. Her hard work at NASA pay off as Mary became the first female engineer.

Meanwhile Dorothy Vaughan which works as supervisor must endure discrimination at work. She is always difficult in a permanent position, because it is only for men. Through leading ability in guiding her co-workers, she succeeds to prove that women are also worthy of being leader.

Accessed on :

<http://margotleeshetterly.com/hidden-figures-nasas-african-american-computers>)

In analyzing female characters against gender discrimination, the writer applies liberal feminism according to Naomi Woolf. Liberal feminism is the concept based on the choice taken on the basis of individual freedom. There are two kinds of theories which Naomi Wolf has developed. The First one is called as Victim Feminism. The second one is called as Power Feminism. The first theory sees woman as weak victim of oppression, while the second theory sees woman as strong fighter against oppression. According to Naomi Woolf in her feminism theory which called Power Feminism, women have power in terms of education and income in their work, women also continue to demand equal rights and currently they are free to will without being dependent on men.

Through this movie, the writer focuses to analyze and show the efforts of female characters in *Hidden Figures* movie against gender discrimination. Because women are rational creatures, their abilities are the same as men, so they must be given the same rights as men.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the title and background to the study, the researcher proposes the problems as follows:

1. What kinds of gender discrimination are experienced by female characters in *Hidden Figures* movie?
2. How do female characters fight against gender discrimination in *Hidden Figures* movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To describe the kinds of gender discrimination experienced by female character in *Hidden Figures* movie.
2. To explain how female characters fight against gender discrimination in *Hidden Figures* movie.

1.4. Scope of the Study

This study would be too broad without limitation, the researcher will limit this study to be more focused on explaining gender discrimination which is experienced by female characters by applying Naomi Wolf's liberal feminism which is called feminism strength theory and their effort to against the discrimination of gender.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significance of this research include the following, theoretically this research is to give a contribution in literary field, particularly as a reference and

expected to give advantages for the readers and also to provide a better and useful understanding, as follows :

1. To the students, as a reference in studying English literary work.
2. To the researchers, as a useful reference for the researchers to gains new knowledge about the equal rights that women should have according to feminism theory and avoid gender discrimination between women and men.
3. To the readers, this research will provide a better and useful understanding.

1.6 Approach to the Study

This study will analyze the script of the movie that reflects the effort of female characters against gender discrimination in *Hidden Figures* movie using feminism approach especially liberal feminism theory by Naomi Woolf. In analyzing the movie the researcher applied qualitative method and applies feminism approach especially liberal feminism theory by Naomi Wolf (1997).

The data were collected by watching the movie carefully and reading the movie script comprehensively, then identify the utterances based on the problems. The data are selected based on Power Feminism Theory of Naomi Wolf and selected from citations of movie's subtitle. The citations which become the data consist of character's description and dialogues which are selected according to research questions and Power Feminism Theory.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

In conducting the research, the writer organizes this study into five chapters in order to give a clear guidance when reading and understanding the content of the study.

Chapter I : Introduction. It 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 : Biography of the author and synopsis of the work. In this chapter the researcher writes about the biography of the author and synopsis of the movie that will be analyzed.

Chapter III : Review of related literature, which consists of previous studies, popular culture, movie , Feminism and Naomi Wolf's theory.

Chapter IV : Findings and discussion. In this chapter the researcher will analyze and discuss about the work.

Chapter V : Conclusion and suggestion. This is the last chapter which consists of conclusion and suggestion of the work.