

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Being born as a woman is a destiny in life. The nature of a woman is to be a wife, give birth, and care of children. A struggle indeed, but it cannot be concluded that the woman's position is always under the control of men. A woman has the right to do anything that makes her comfortable and free without pressure from any party, including her mind. Like nowadays, many roles of women who decide themselves to be housewives, become career women, become career women but are married, or to be "single" women are a freedom for women to choose and determine their way of life. Therefore no one has the right to prohibit or regulate the life of a woman, even though the law. All of these choices are freely made by women on the condition that they do not forget their nature, obligations and responsibilities as a woman herself, as a wife and mother to their children. That way, no gender can harass or demean women with all their abilities.

Acts of harassment, ridicule, and intimidation include acts of oppression. Oppression can be shown in the form of physical oppression and psychological oppression. Physical oppression causes a person to experience physical injury or illness, whereas psychological oppression causes a person to experience depression, trauma, anxiety, and stress. What is meant by injustice itself is

actually related to acts of oppression. A woman who experiences an injustice in her life then she has experienced oppression in herself.

Cases of oppression often occur in the majority of women who oppose the law, family environment and community environment. This happens because of family and community thinking that women have their own functions, roles and positions since they were born and this makes the majority of women unaware that they are oppressed by many other types of oppression. Then it is necessary to uphold the existence of rules or laws which are basically to protect women from crime and injustice.

Since the 1800s gender and feminism have emerged carrying a mission of equality rights and justice for women. This movement was inspired by the thought of radical feminism by Kate Millett, she revealed in her book *Sexual Politics* (1970) that relations gender is the relation of power and the root of operations against women buried in the sex system or gender in patriarchy. To free women from male domination, then patriarchy must be removed. Millett wants an androgen future, an integration of feminine and masculine traits. (Setyawan;2017:71)

*The Duchess* (2008) movie directed by Saul Dibbis a film adapted from a book entitled *Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire* by Amanda Foreman. This film reflects the condition of an 18th century noblewoman and infidelity conflicts that made her family out of harmony. This phenomenon is a picture in the royal environment at that time. This is a clear fact that there are gender forces where

men are more dominant than women. The oppression experienced by the main character is evidence of the cruelty experienced in the patriarchal society. The main character rejected the concept of patriarchy and struggled to get the rights that women should get. The main character is a public figure which is very influential in society, besides her struggle to get equality of position and justice leads Georgiana has a feminist character.

As the main female character, Georgiana became the woman figure who built the character in the movie, which is willing to get married at a fairly young age, at 17 years old. Georgiana is said to be unlucky despite being a noblewoman who has everything. Living in an era where a woman must abide by the policies and all regulations of men makes Georgiana unhappy throughout her life. The injustice she experienced because she could not provide an heir made the husband betrayed and made Georgiana feel like a useless woman. Psychological oppression continues to be elaborated by the director during the end of the story and it has more value for the feminist theory approach.

Noble women of that era were still under the control of family with their noble titles. All aspects of life such as social, economic and romance were still benchmarks so that the nobility was not lost. Not all women in this era whose lives were full and wrapped in luxury mean "happy". Internal problems were a psychological problem experienced by most noble women because of oppression. The highest social class in pre-modern society was "nobility". In most countries, "noble status" does not have official privileges; except in the United Kingdom. Based on the article of European Royal History-*Exploring the History*

*of European Royalty* in Kingdom of Europe, *Duke* it derives from the Latin, *dux* meaning leader. It was first created in England in 1337 when King Edward I made his son, Edward the Black Prince, Duke of Cornwall. The feminine form of Duke is **Duchess**. (<https://europeanroyalhistory.wordpress.com/2012/08/21/british-nobility/>)

Along with the changing times and technological advances, literature also experienced a development from textual to visual. Movie may be one form of literary work that is packaged in a practical and interesting way, so that it becomes one of the most sought-after materials to become the object of research in literature. A movie entitled "*The Duchess*" (2008) with a background of feminism that discusses the life of the nobility and also related to women condition in the 18th century became the material that would be analyzed by researcher.

This research is expected to be a new perspective, useful for society or women today, have moral values and become personal thoughts or opinions that are being developed in the final project entitled **Oppression and Injustice toward Women in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century in Saul Dibb's *The Duchess* (Movie): As a Feminism Study**.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Relating background to the study that is written at the beginning of the chapter, the problem statements are as follows:

1.2.1. How is the Georgiana's character in the film portrayed as an 18<sup>th</sup>-century woman in England?

1.2.2. What are the oppression and injustice toward the main character in the film as feminism study?

1.2.3. What are the effects of the oppression and injustice toward main character?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Scientifically, research is an attempt to find something. The purpose of this objective writing is to make it easier for the author to collect and find results. This is the reason for this research to be completed. The objectives of this study are as follows:

1.3.1. To find out Georgiana's character in the film portrayed as an 18<sup>th</sup>-century woman in England.

1.3.2. To find out the oppression and injustice toward the main character in the film as feminism study.

1.3.3. To find out the effects of the oppression and injustice toward main character.

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

Based on the statements and objectives mentioned earlier, the discussion of this issue focuses on oppression and injustice as experienced by the main

character of *The Duchess*, especially the oppression and injustice experienced along with its impact.

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

This research is not the only feminism study, but also gives benefits or feedback for many parties. In this research discussion provides a new atmosphere for readers, researchers and especially the women in life today and the negative impacts experienced if discrimination against women continues to occur. This research can also be redeveloped and become a reference with similar fields.

### **1.6 Approaches to the Study**

In this research, I apply feminism approach. Tyson (2006) states in his book entitled *Critical Theory Today*, that feminist criticism examines the ways in which literature (and other cultural productions) reinforces or undermines the economic, political, social, and psychological oppression of women. Kate Millet's theory of feminism entitled "Sexual Politics" is the main guideline in this discussion. The procedures applied in this research are downloading many journals as sources and references, downloading the movie to get the data, watching the movie, identifying (character, oppression, injustice, and effects) in the movie screenplay, interpreting the data, and then analyzing the data.

### **1.7 Organization of the Paper**

This section will mention the contents of each chapter that are very important and in accordance with the requirements of the study. This research paper consists of five chapters to make easy to understand.

Chapter I is an introduction consisting of background to the study, statements of the problems, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, approaches to the study, and organization of the paper. Chapter II consists of Saul Dobb's biography and synopsis of "The Duchess". Chapter III describes several reviews of theoretical framework related to the study. Chapter IV is about analysis and discussions. Chapter V consists of the conclusion and suggestion.