

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Discrimination, who does not know about this social phenomenon? A social phenomenon that often occurs in society and is still ongoing today. Discrimination itself occurs when a group of people feels subordinated, marginalized, or oppressed. A group that is discriminated against can be described as weak, inferior, and despised. Discrimination can happen to a group of people because they come from a different race, culture, ethnicity, religion or gender. Discrimination is also mostly caused by gender and this often occurs to women.

The phenomenon of discrimination often occurs in social life and can be appreciated in the form of literary works, films, and others. For example, gender inequality such as inequality of workload, psychological violence of women, and rape. There are movies that used gender discrimination as the theme. There are *Whale Rider (2002)*, *Frida (2004)*, and *Mustang (2015)*. These three movies use setting in the 21st century.

One of the literary works depicting discrimination against women is the Movie *Whale Rider* which was written by Witi Ihimera, then filmed and directed by Niki Caro. The 101-minute movie, *Whale Rider* is a movie about a New Zealand-German family drama. Which was released in 2002 in Toronto, January 30, 2003 in New Zealand, and July 25, 2003 in Germany. The film are stars by Keisha-Hughes Castle as Kahu Paikea Apirana, Rawiri Paratene as Koro, Vicky Haughton as Nanny Flowers, and Cliff Curtis as Porourangi. *Whale Rider* movie was distributed by Pandora Film (Germany) and Newmarket Films (USA).

The movie "*Whale Rider*" offers an interesting and unique story. The main character is a girl who is depicted wanting a change for the good of society with positive values that she believes in. *Whale Rider* is presented from women's point of view and attempts to empathize with the issue of women's position in a minority society that has been eroded by the pressures of modernity.

Discrimination from the male side, courage, insubordination, and leadership will be encountered in this film. This movie also carries a symbol of conflict, change, affection, myths and power relations between men and women in a patriarchal society structure. This is supported by the portrayal of the Paikea character who challenges the dominant image of minority women such as weak, exploited and powerless. Paikea empowers herself by placing her figure based on polarity between boy and girl.

Pai gets discriminations by her families and tribes who do not believe her to be leader of tribe there, in the movie *Whale Rider* (2002).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

From the background above, the focus of the study deals with the following problems :

1. What are the causes of discrimination against the main character reflected in the *Whale Rider* (2002)?
2. What are the forms of discrimination toward the female character?
3. How does the female character overcome the discrimination?

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

The research objective is related to the problem formulation. This research is intended to produce descriptive knowledge about discrimination against women in the film "*Whale Rider*" (2002). Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objectives of the study are as follows;

1. To find out the causes of the discrimination against women in *Whale Rider* (2002).
2. To find out the forms of discrimination against women.
3. To find out the female character's actions to overcome the discrimination.

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

This research focuses on discrimination toward women in the *Whale Rider* (2002) movie. It only discusses the causes of discrimination toward women forms of discrimination experience and actions the female character to overcome the discrimination.

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

The results of this study can be an alternative to enrich the reader's knowledge, especially in terms of discrimination to women. Hopefully this research will make the reader understand how about discrimination happens to women. It is expected to provide additional knowledge and insight for fellow students.

#### **1.6 Approach to the Study**

This study applied the theory of Kate Millet written in *Sexual Politics*. The researcher applied feminism approach. Feminism approach is the ideology of women's liberation, that women experience injustice because of their gender.

The research was conducted by applying some procedures. First, the researcher watched the movie script. After that, she identified the movie script to get the data. She identified the utterances based on the problem statements. Then, the data were analyzed by applying Kate Millet's Sexual Politics. Finally she interpreted the analysis.

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

Chapter one is an introduction consisting of the background of 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 research paper. Chapter two contains biography of the script writer and synopsis of the movie. Chapter three contains review of related literature . Chapter four presents the analysis or discussion. In this chapter the researcher will explain and answer the questions in the problem statement from chapter one. Chapter five contains conclusions and suggestions.