

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Feminism has been gaining attention in this digital era in terms of gender equality in employment, protection rights, freedom of expression in the world of political economy, racial equality, and social equality in society. Basically women do not have equal rights with men in society where women are placed far below the level of men; not appreciated because of principle of society's mindset towards women who are weak and incompetent, women are easy to be manipulated and harassed, women are not comparable to men where they do not have fundamental power in the political and economic sphere, and society considers women to be equal to housemaids who require them only to cook and do household chores, for nothing other than studying or attending school like normal school students (Ruxton, 2004).

In this digital era, we could take some examples of the rise of feminism in movies, such as *Wonder Woman 1984* by Patty Jenkins (2020) is the second movie from the first *Wonder Woman* (2017) where Diana Prince living in the 1980s hiding from the world by working in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC curating ancient artifacts that later identified as the Dreamstone containing a Latin inscription claiming to grant the holder one wish.

Wonder Woman is a superheroine who appears in DC Comics' American comic books. The character initially debuted in *All Star Comics* #8

on October 21, 1941, and her first appearance in Sensation Comics #1 in January 1942, making her a founding member of the Justice League. Since then, DC Comics has published the Wonder Woman series practically continuously. Princess Diana of Themyscira is her official title in her country, the Island Nation of Themyscira. She sometimes uses her civilian alias Diana Prince to fit into society outside of her homeland.

Wonder Woman 1984 by Patty Jenkins (2020) was equal parts muscle and heart, with perfect tonal balance between engrossing action and soft humor, stunning spectacle and endearing romance. The extraordinarily captivating Gal Gadot, who was more than simply a stunning and statuesque bombshell, was at the center of it all. She exuded goodness, brightness, and optimism in a contagious way, inspiring you to believe in the power of superheroes beyond simple clichés about doing the right thing and safeguarding humanity.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background above, the research questions can be formulated as follows:

- a. How Kate Millet's theory was depicted when Diana Prince gained equality rights in the movie *Wonder Woman 1984* by Patty Jenkins?
- b. What factors causing Barbara Minerva (the antagonist) rebel against other people perceived from gender equality in the movie *Wonder Woman 1984* by Patty Jenkins?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the research questions, the objectives of this study are:

- a. To describe the equality rights for Diana Prince in the movie *Wonder Woman 1984* by Patty Jenkins using Kate Millet's theory.
- b. To elaborate the factors Barbara Minerva (the antagonist) perceived the inequality acts through women struggles in the movie *Wonder Woman 1984* by Patty Jenkins.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This research is restricted on the phenomenon of women struggle within the inequality of the gender in Diana Prince as the main character and how Barbara Minerva against it in *Wonder Woman 1984* by Patty Jenkins using Kate Millet's theory.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research aims to give further information about the second wave feminism and gender equality reflected in the movie *Wonder Woman 1984* by Patty Jenkins. Hopefully, this study could be another knowledge learning about feminism and equality theory for women in society.

1.6 Approach of the Study

This research paper uses context-oriented theory that examines the historical, political, and social contexts of a work in a fiction (Würzbach, 1983). The researcher attempts to investigate its social roots in this study by referring to the feminism theory. This research paper uses second-wave feminism theory by Kate Millet. At that time, women's liberation movement was gaining traction, as well as a new politics that began to characterize male dominance as a kind of political and institutional oppression (Millett, 2016). Characters in a movie can be sociology evaluated as if they were real individuals. In feminism approach, it is also explained of how women had to accept patriarchal beliefs and practices, which called into question the notion that female subservience is natural. The researcher uses the method by watching the movie and close reading its script, then identifying the data based on the research question, analyzing by applying Kate Millet's feminism theory, and last but not least, interpreting the literature object.

According to rottentomatoes.com, *Wonder Woman 1984* or commonly referred to as *WW84* is a film directed by Patty Jenkins under the auspices of Warner Bros. Pictures distribution in December 25, 2020. *Wonder Woman 1984* itself is a film adaptation from DC Comics entitled *All Star Comics* in October 1941. Before *Wonder Woman 1984*, there was already a sequel to the film that was released in 2017 namely *Wonder Woman*. Apart from *All Stars Comics*, *WW84: Museum Mayhem* is a 32-page one-shot comic book that has been released on September 29, 2020 as a prequel to the film *Wonder Woman*

1984. A motion comic version was apparently later distributed through DC FanDome 2021. There is also a second tale in the issue, although it is unrelated to the first and has nothing to do with the DC Extended Universe in general (*Wonder Woman 1984 #1* | *DC Extended Universe Wiki* | *Fandom*, n.d.).

1.7 Organization the Paper

This research report is organized into five chapters, they are as follow:

- a. Chapter I contains the introduction of this research and it also consists of background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, organization of the research paper.
- b. Chapter II consists of the synopsis of *Wonder Woman 1984* movie and biography of Patty Jenkins.
- c. Chapter III elaborates about the previous studies and theoretical framework used in this study.
- d. Chapter IV presents about the findings and discusses the findings thoroughly.
- e. Chapter V which tells the conclusions of this study and suggestions for further research.