

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **I.1 Background of the Study**

There have been many kinds of research on women and gender issues in the military. However, in general, the study emphasizes the aspect of gender inequality, namely the role of women in official duties caused by differences in the physical standards of women and men. Previous research on gender issues in the military includes a study by Timur (2016). The research stated that the position of women in the military world is still a minority and general tasks with feminine roles. However, several countries have involved women in influential positions. The Australian military has included women in combat duties since 2011. The United States has sent female soldiers in combat function since 2013. In Britain, female soldiers have been fighting since 2016. Meanwhile, female soldiers in Iraq, the Netherlands, and Indonesia have not been assigned to the combat sector but generally in relatively safe and feminine roles (Timur, Cooper, and Matthews, 2016).

The number and level of women's participation in the military in Indonesia are limited because they are judged to be less capable than men (Timur, 2011). The total number of female soldiers in the Indonesian National Army is 10% or around 7000 personnel of the total number of personnel. Female soldiers can further explore their capabilities if allowed to participate in increasing the country's defense and security

capabilities, even in international security. For example, if women are given more opportunities to participate in UN peacekeeping missions. 1 The Intendance is the task of managing and supervising supplies of clothing, fuel, stationery, and transportation for regiments or other troop bodies (International Dictionary, 2017). Their involvement in the UN peacekeeping mission is expected to represent the voice of women to protect the many victims of violence against women (Timur, 2011).

Historically, women were involved only in extraordinary circumstances. The participation of women in the military is often rendered invisible in the historical records of military institutions. In some countries, women in the military have always been in the minority and are placed in services more suitable for women, such as in the medical and technical fields. Restrictions on the role of women in military service occur in countries that are not democratic systems. In contrast, gender equality for women's participation in the military is higher in democratic countries. Gender equality policies have also been implemented in armed forces that adhere to a solid democratic system (Carreiras, 2006).

The Swedish military involves women in missions that require the role of women in it, including fighting social crimes that often occur during war. The social crimes are violence against civilian women, rape, and others. Sweden has already achieved success in implementing the concept of gender in its armed forces (Egnell, Hojem, and Berts, 2014).

The minimal number of women in the military is caused by (1) women having less English proficiency than male soldiers; (2) the husband did not allow the factor because, in general, they were already married; (3) the voice is not heard in making decisions; (4) a patriarchal culture which assumes that women must prioritize their duties at home in taking care of their children and husbands (Timur F, 2012).

Many movies raise this issue based on the facts and analysis regarding discrimination against women in the military field. One of them is *Mulan* by Niki Caro. The emperor of China issued a decree that a man from a family must serve in the Chinese Imperial Army to protect the country from the Hun Empire. The eldest daughter of a respected soldier, Hua Mulan, took steps to replace her ailing father. He was excited, determined, and quick to his feet. Disguised as a man by the name of Hua Jun, she was tested every step of the way and had to harness his profound strength and embrace his true potential. Because women in China at that time were considered weak and could only get married. Thanks to Mulan's potential, which is Chi, Mulan was able to defend the Empire by fighting alongside male soldiers.

## **I.2 Statement of The Problem**

From the background can be concluded several problems that researcher will study in this thesis; they are:

1. What are the causes of discrimination against women in the *Mulan* movie?
2. What kinds of military acts of discrimination that Mulan receive in the movie?

3. What are the effects experienced by Mulan in the movie?

### **I.3 Objective of the Study**

From the description above, the researcher will identify the problems that appear as follows:

1. To find out what causes of discrimination against women in Mulan movie.
2. To find out some acts of military discrimination that Mulan received in the movie.
3. To determine the effects experienced by Mulan in the movie.

### **I.4 Scope of the Study**

The purpose of writing this research is to determine military discrimination against women in the film Mulan. It is well known that those who have masculinity are those of the male gender, and those who have femininity are those of the female gender, while Mulan herself is a woman, and she can prove that women are not weak creatures. Thanks to her Chi, she could also carry out male duties and participate in wars against the emperor's enemies.

In the movie, other heroic acts by Mulan can also be seen in some scenes; when she is already in the army and war, Mulan, known as Ping-Ping, is her name when she becomes a man, and has a significant contribution to protecting the emperor.

Mulan, with her bravery and strategy, successfully defeated their enemies. Even though she is only a girl and is in the war only to replace her father, Mulan proves that she is a real warrior; she carries out her responsibility as a part of the army and conscripts every breath of her to save the country. Mulan also has the skill to think like a man; her velocity of thinking and organizing the right strategy proves that she got the quality of a man.

Mulan successfully saves the country by shooting the last cannon to the top of the mountain's peak, triggering the snow and their enemies to be slaughtered by the avalanche of snow.

### **I.5 Significance of the Study**

Due to widespread discrimination against women, especially in the military, this study aims to provide readers with an understanding of more of the discrimination women receive, especially in the military field, based on the Mulan movie. Many women are reluctant and afraid to open their voices through this research in the movie Mulan. Hopefully, it can be an example of learning for women to be more courageous in speaking up on the issue of discrimination.

### **I.6 Approach of the Study**

This thesis is also based on the theory of feminist activists. Naomi Wolf, in her book, *Fire With Fire*. The author argues that the feminist movement must change if it speaks to a new generation of women. There is a widening gap between much

feminist rhetoric and most women's lives. Even as women are gaining more ground than ever, a wariness of feminist orthodoxies keeps them away from the only movement capable of putting political clout behind their success. "Fire with Fire" aims to provide a blueprint for a revitalized, inclusive brand of feminism. And it is a call to women to throw off centuries of conditioning about the relationship between power and femininity: they must be prepared to wrest and use power.

### **I.7 Organization of The Paper**

In this research paper, the writer decides that chapter one consists of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the approach of the study, and organization of the paper. Chapter two contains synopsis of the movie and biography of the founder of Mulan's story. Chapter three includes a review of the related study. Chapter four presents an analysis that explains and answers the question in the problem of the statement in chapter one. Chapter five contains the conclusion and suggestions.

## CHAPTER II

### SYNOPSIS OF MULAN MOVIE 2020 AND BIOGRAPHY OF GUO MAOQIAN

Mulan 2020 results from Mulan's rework in 1998, adopted from a picture book made by Robert D. San Souci. Before Disney worked on Mulan in 1998, several Mulan movies had existed long before 1998:

#### 1. 1928

The story of Mulan was first adapted through a black and white silent movie, *Hua Mulan Joins the Army*. Slightly different from the classic tale of Mulan that we know, this movie produced by Tianyi Film Company from Shanghai tells the story of Mulan (Hu Shan), who is engaged, but her marriage must be postponed due to war. When her fiance enlists in the military, Mulan secretly enlists to replace her aging father. With a little comedy twist, director Li Pingqian succeeded in making this movie a hit for its time.

#### 2. 1939

After that, in 1939, the Mulan movie appeared with the same title as before but with a much better version equipped with audio. This legend was popular and became the spotlight because this movie is the starting point of

literature about Mulan, which uses Mandarin and Cantonese and produces songs that became popular at that time. The 1939 film Mulan highlights

Mulan as a warrior and focuses on the romantic story of Mulan and Private Liu Yuan.

3. 1964

Twenty-five years later, the third colorful and cinematic Mulan movie was entitled Lady General Hua Mulan in 1964.

4. 1994

In 1994 under the production of the Beijing opera came the Mulan movie titled Saga of Mulan or with the original title Hua Mulan Chuan Qi which was peppered with exciting dramas and songs. Same with Mulan's story from time to time, this movie describes Mulan's journey from being a teenager to finally becoming a Tough soldier.

5. 1998

Four years later, Disney's animated movie Mulan began appearing in 1998. The first animated movie Mulan became very popular because it won several awards, ranging from a Golden Globe and a Grammy to an Oscar nomination.

In 1998, the animated movie Mulan entitled The Secret of Mulan appeared. This animated movie differs from previous films because it features animated characters such as anthropomorphic animals and insects.

Not only animated movies but in the same year also appeared the first drama series from Hong Kong entitled A Tough Side of a Lady. This drama-comedy genre drama series consists of 20 episodes.

6. 1999

A year after that, the legendary story of Mulan re-emerged in the form of a series produced by CTV Taiwan in Hua Mu Lan.

7. 2004

The story of Mulan in the Disney animated movie made a sequel entitled Mulan II. This film continues the story of Mulan, who is now engaged to General Shang.

8. 2009

With the action-war genre, China is back working on the story of Mulan in the movie Mulan Rise of a warrior. The movie received several awards and was included in the “Best Picture” category.

9. 2012

Mu Lan 巾幗大將軍 is the first Chinese production series to follow the legend of the princess who became a warrior.

10. 2013

The story of Mulan re-emerged as a movie with the title The Legend of Hua Mulan. Uniquely, this year there are collaborations with actors from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

11. 2020

Not only operas, movies, series, and classic animations, the story of Mulan is also animated by China under the title Kung Fu Mulan. In the same year, Disney revived the story of Mulan with a live-action version with the title Mulan. Besides Disney, there is also a Chinese version of the live-action Mulan entitled Matchless Mulan.

### **2.1 Synopsis of Mulan 2020**

Taking the background of imperial China in the fifth century, the movie Mulan tells the story of a girl named Hua Mulan (Liu Yifei), the first child of a former war soldier named Hua Zhou (Tzi Ma). Hua Mulan grew up to be a beautiful girl with strong character. However, she was often ostracized because she likes martial arts and behaves like a man.

The story begins with an Emperor (Jet Li) who issues a decree that one male from each family must join the imperial army to fight the attacks by the Huns.

However, her father is the only male in the Mulan family. Mulan's father's condition is fragile, and it is impossible to enter the battlefield. Seeing his father's illness, Mulan decides to replace him on the battlefield. He left the house with his father's war equipment and went to the army training barracks disguised as a man. In the barracks, no one realizes that Mulan is a woman. Including Mulan's leader,

Commander Tung (Donnie Yen). Commander Tung has many subordinates, one of whom is Honghui, an ambitious man who manages to make Mulan falls in love.

However, while battling the Huns, Mulan pursued several troops alone. Until she meets Xianniang, who knows Mulan's true identity. Xianniang taunts Mulan for having disguised herself and trying to kill Mulan. However, the action failed because Mulan's skin protector blocked it.

Finally, Mulan couldn't hide her identity anymore. She was expelled from the army and had to return home.

Mulan implied a moral message about family love that has no limits in the film. This is shown by Mulan's father, who always sacrifices himself. Mulan's father and Mulan's character also show that a child's love is no less significant.

## **2.2 Biography of the Author**

The movie Mulan is a word-of-mouth legend taken from China, a female warrior who became a heroic role model whose story was connected to Chinese history in the 2nd or 5th century. In Chinese, Huā means Flower, and Mùlán means magnolia. The magnolia flower has been one of the symbols of China since ancient times.

Based on the source, the legend of Mulan comes from a folk song in the Northern Wei Dynasty in 386 AD-557 AD called the Ballad of Mulan. The first known transcription of The Ballad of Mulan dates back to the 6th century, but the

work *Rain* is no longer there, and the only surviving poetic text is another work known as the *Music Bureau Collection*. Afterwards, Guo Maoqian listened to the lyrics of the anthology, songs, and poems during the 11th and 12th centuries.

Guo Maoqian is an anthologist of Song Dynasty poetry. He composed an essential collection of lyrical pieces in his *Anthology of Yuefu Poetry*, which contains almost all surviving styles of the Music Bureau, or Yuefu from the Han dynasty through the Tang dynasty and into the Five Dynasties, and which includes famous poems such as "Hua Mulan."

He was born in Xucheng (now Dongping, Shandong Province) of Yunzhou (Dongping country) in the Northern Song Dynasty (Gui quanchuan, volume 297 of history of Song Dynasty). He is the grandson of Guo Quan, the general judge of Laizhou. His father, Guo Yuanming, is the doctor of Taicang. According to *Siku Quanshu*, since Jianyan, *fanning yaolu* records that Maoqian is the grandson of Guo Zhongmao (Guo Quan, Zi Zhongbao), a Bachelor of writing and studying, and the son of the Ming Dynasty.

The main works of Guo Moqian are: *Yuefu Poetry Anthology* divides Yuefu Poetry into 12 categories: Jiaomiao poetry, Yanshe poetry, Guchuqici, Hengchuci, Xianghe poetry, Qingshan poetry, Wuqici, Qinquci, Zaquci, modern poetry, Zaballad poetry, and Xinyuefu poetry. This work divides Hengchuci into several subcategories, such as Hengchuqici of the Han Dynasty, Hengchuqici of Liangguijiao, and Xianghe poetry Wu Shengge and Xiqu.