

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Women will be subjugated by men in a patriarchal society in every way. The masculine hierarchical order of society is known as patriarchy. Marriage and the family perpetuate the patriarchal system, as does the sexual division of labor and society. Women will be forced to be a labour only at home, and will only be utilized as a sexual object by men. This system only allows men to be the first sex, while forcing women to rely on and exist to serve men in order to be classified as the second sex. This hierarchical sexual order perpetuates men's oppression of women in the home and in society (Beauvoir, 1949).

Women, on the other hand, have more opportunities in the modern period of capitalism than they did previously. Capitalism has progressed, and it now allows women to work. Despite the fact that capitalism provides opportunity for women by expanding the employment market, capitalism is also an exploitative system. Employers will take advantage of workers since they have less power.

As capitalism evolves in the modern era, many feminist believe that the only way to stop injustice is to eradicate it from its foundation. Feminists think that capitalism is at the heart of the problem of women's oppression, and that it

is linked to patriarchy, or male supremacy. However, while both capitalism and patriarchy place a premium on analysis, they both have the same problem to address: oppression and exploitation (Beauvoir, 1967).

The data in this study are taken from a movie. Movie is recognized as one of the most current literary works because it incorporates characteristics that are so similar to play. When viewed through the lens of formalists-structuralists, however, the movie's love for the novel typically overshadows its ties to the play. Various narrative approaches, experimental plot structuring, foreshadowing and flashback, change of setting and temporal structure all of these features are common in movie (Culler, 1997).

Spawned from the fertile mind of director George Miller, *Mad Max: Fury Road* is a feminist film due to its emphasis on the freedom of women from a patriarchal society. Certain fans of the original franchise were upset by the political message the film projected in what was meant to be a "traditional" action film, whilst other fans denied that *Fury Road* was a feminist film altogether due to its blatant sexualization of the supermodel sex slaves and the glorification of masculinity throughout. Although Miller's *Fury Road* does in many ways present women through the male gaze it indeed sexualizes them at certain points in the film it should still be classified as a feminist film. *Fury Road* frequently invokes the concept of female empowerment and ridicules traditional masculinity, which is particularly impressive seeing as this film is a sequel to a successful uber-masculine franchise.

This film uses a post-apocalyptic setting as the backdrop for its plot. The film's plot highlights the tyranny and exploitation of women by a despotic dictator, in this case a man. He is Immortan Joe, who oppresses and exploits his five women, the Milking Mothers, and Imperator Furiosa. The five wives are Toast the Knowing, The Splendid Angharad, Capable, The Dag, and Cheedo the Fragile. Immortan Joe uses them to kidnap his son and imprison him in a bunker. Meanwhile, Imperator Furiosa, the film's protagonist, is attempting to flee him because she was imprisoned as a kid by the cruel dictator. Immortan Joe transforms Furiosa into a soldier, and she is tasked with piloting the "war rig," a powerful vehicle capable of transporting large amounts of gasoline. The Milking Mothers, on the other hand, are utilized like human livestock to generate milk.

Immortan Joe gives a speech at the beginning of the film. He also provides water to his people from his aqua cola, a type of water reservoir that is transported to the population via a large pipe. He does, however, have the two most important commodities that people require at the time: water and oil/gasoline. He teaches his followers that he is their rescuer and real leader based on this fact. Furiosa is introduced to the crowd in the middle of Immortan Joe's speech, and she is given the mission of ferrying oil from Gas Town to Citadel, where Immortan Joe controls. Because they are imprisoned in a bunker and leave messages stating that they are not Immortan Joe's property, Furiosa uses this journey as a strategy to set all of Immortan Joe's wives free. When Immortan Joe discovers that his five wives have vanished,

he dispatches the army to track them down. Nux, a member of the War Boys and an Immortan Joe soldier, joins the chase and brings Max Rockatansky, a former cop who survived being imprisoned by Immortan Joe's army, along as a blood bag. The army, on the other hand, is unable to pursue Furiosa. Later, Nux and Max join Furiosa's gang in their search for a new home. The squad continues their search for Furiosa's homeland, which is known as Green Place. Green Place is unfriendly when they arrive due to the radioactive atmosphere.

The writer decides to look at the female characters in the film through the prism of feminism. According to the writer, the female characters who surround Immortan are subjected to persecution and exploitation. Female characters, like Immortan Joe, resist and struggle for their independence to escape oppression and exploitation. Because the Citadel's system is capitalist patriarchy, the writer feels that the best theory to employ to analyze this problem is feminist theory.

There is something intriguing about this film. The writer is interested in analyzing the feminist study in the Mad Max: Fury Road movie because the writer believes Furiosa is the remedy to the capitalist patriarchy problem that Immortan Joe represents. Not only for the five wives and the Milking Mothers, but also for the people of Citadel, Furiosa is bringing redemption.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

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

- 1) How are the discrimination and oppression of female characters in Mad Max: Fury Road?
- 2) How do the women in Mad Max: Fury Road get their freedom?

1.3 Objective of The Study

This study is conducted to respond the research question in the statement of the problem. The objectives are formulated as follows:

- 1) To explain the discrimination and oppression of female characters in Mad Max: Fury Road.
- 2) To explain the women in Mad Max: Fury Road get their freedom.

1.4 Scope of The Study

This study focuses to analyse based on the Simone de Beauvoir Theory. Then it also focuses on the struggle women face in liberating themselves economically, politically, and sexually from the status of other. Given the mistrust of women in the cultural imagination, the liberation of women is a difficult undertaking. Simone de Beauvoir believes a woman should embrace her identity as both a woman and as a human being. The

concept of women and men being equal, while still different, was revolutionary in terms of the history of feminist theory. In spite of this, many women still believe they must act like men in order to gain a position of influence in the public sphere.

1.5 Approach to the Study

In this study, the writer uses Simone de Beauvoir's feminist approach to assess the film. Gender equality and equal rights for women are the focus of this strategy. According to Simone de Beauvoir, a woman must accept her identity as a woman with gender equality, equal rights, and the ability to maximize her potential.

This study employs a qualitative method to data collection and analysis. According to (Ezzy and Pranee, 1999), qualitative research is a formation concept that helps us comprehend social phenomena in natural settings by stressing the experiences, meanings, and perspectives of the participants. As a result, no numerical data is required for this study.

The research is carried out by classifying the discourses and situations stated in the movie screenplay that are connected to the problem statements. The writer then conducts an analysis of the data using a feminist perspective. Following the analysis, the writer draws conclusions and makes recommendations based on the findings.

1.6 Significance of the Study

In order for all readers to comprehend the feminist theory, the writer thinks that this study will provide some information. Later, the writer also believes that seeing the movie *Mad Max: Fury Road* through a feminist perspective would help readers comprehend it. Last but not least, it is possible that the findings of this study will serve as an example for future research, especially when it comes to feminist theories applied to movie analysis.

1.7 Research Method

In the research method, it shows the method is applied to solve the problems. In this study there are three points of discussions, they are: data source, method and technique of collecting data, and method and technique of analysing data.

a. Data source

The data in this study were taken from a movie *Mad Max: Fury Road* in 2015. This movie is directed by George Miller. The movie is used because there are many actions, statements and conversations that reflect feminism. Besides, movie script will also be read in detail in order to support this study.

b. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The method used in collecting the data is the descriptive method. In order to get the relevant data, the procedure includes watching movie carefully. The movie will be watched and listened intensively in order to identify the characterization of main character and to find the issues of feminism. Besides, this movie will also be watch in detail in order to support this study.

c. Method and Technique of Analysing Data

The writer will examine every piece of information from the Mad Max: Fury Road film that has to do with oppression, exploitation, revolt, and the characterisation of the female characters who surround Immortan Joe in order to come up with a description of those female characters. All of the descriptive information will then be utilized to examine the feminist concept. Beginning with an overview of the Max: Fury Road movie description, the analysis follows.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This study will be divided into five chapters. The chapters detail are as follows:

Chapter I contains the introduction of the research. The writer here provides the explanations of the background to the study, the statements of the problem, the objectives of the study, the scope of the study, approach to the

study, the significance of the study, research method and the organization of the paper.

Chapter II contains the synopsis of the object; a movie entitled Mad Max: Fury Road. Followed by the biography of the director, George Miller.

Chapter III contains the review of related literature. This chapter contains subsections which are previous studies, popular culture, movie with its classifications and elaborations, character with its classifications and elaborations, setting with its classifications and elaborations, conflict with its classifications and elaborations, explanation of the women freedom, and explanation about feminism both in common and according to Simone de Beauvoir.

Chapter IV contains the findings and discussions in order to provide the answers of the statements of the problem that has written in chapter I.

Chapter V contains the conclusion of the study that has done and the suggestion to the reader.