

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Feminism is a social movement in which the fundamental goal is gender equality. Throughout history, people have insisted that men and women can do the same things and has worked to improve the social status of women and the quality of men who are slightly disadvantaged. Modern feminism emerged in the 19th century as a result of the gap in the positions of men and women in Japan, Europe and America. In extreme way, all of the roles that women played were related to their families and households. Women may not join any state or local community agency. They can't use the test systems that men use to improve their social status. Women are really inferior to men when they have no chance to participate in society, the legitimacy of their jobs, or the right to inherit money. (Thakur, 1997)

The definition of gender equality is the equality of values between the roles of men and women, is viewed as critical for a nation's progress and development (Hussain, N., & Kirmani, 2010); yet, women left behind substantially behind men on the majority of metrics of human development. The term "gender equality" refers to the issue of inequality in the conditions and positions of women and men in society. Women continue to face fewer

possibilities than men to participate actively in various programs and activities throughout the community, including economic, sociocultural, educational, and institutional organizations, to name a few. This constraint derives from different societal attitudes and customs that restrict women's movement compared to men's.

The meaning of equal does not make women and men the same, but it has the meaning that the opportunities, rights and responsibilities between women and men are not determined by the gender when they are born. Gender equality means taking into account the interests, needs and priorities of women and men, recognizing that different groups of women and men are different. Gender equality is the ideal situation in which women and men have equal opportunities to participate in political, social and economic activities. There isn't any suffering from disadvantage or discrimination based on gender, both are seen as free, autonomous beings with dignity and rights (Htun, M., & Weldon, 2010).

Gender inequality occurs when the condition and position of one gender are superior to the other. Both men and women can experience gender inequality. In Indonesia, however, women are more affected by gender inequality. The attitude that must be taken in addressing the issue of gender equality is to fight for a gender balance that benefits both parties, uphold justice for both sexes, and provide equal opportunities for both sexes. This

equality issue needs to be addressed as part of our commitment to various life activities that contribute to community welfare.

Sexual Politics is a belief system that advocates and fights for women to exhibit both masculine and feminine behaviors to perform men's roles when necessary. Sexual politics was an examination of patriarchal dominance. Kate Millett analyzes and defines the structural forces she believes are crucial, the "ancient and universal scheme that prevails in the area of sex." She believes that a man's gender identity automatically empowers him, but because of the prevalence of patriarchy, women are rendered powerless (Huyink, 2015).

Millett advanced the idea that men have institutionalized to control over women in her work and that this authority is socially created rather than biological or innate. Sexual Politics was released during the emergence of a women's liberation movement and a politics that characterized male dominance as political and institutional oppression. Millett's work presented this theory to a broader audience, most notably the intellectual liberal establishment, establishing radical feminism as a critical new political theory and movement. In her book, Millett demonstrated women's cooperation in male rule by examining how females are socialized to accept patriarchal beliefs and practices, which called into question the notion that female subservience is natural. (Bindel, 2017).

The film tells of a fighter who carries out a rebellion to fight for women's rights without risking it at his own risk. Mulan's efforts to fight for her show her ability to be a good warrior and help her comrades defeat the Huns are interesting to see from a feminist point of view. The author wants to analyze Mulan's efforts to get equal rights with men by using a feminist point of view and the forms of discrimination against women in Mulan's experience.

The researcher chooses gender equality as the subject of this study because the issue of gender equality is fascinating and deserves to be brought up so that many people who were previously unconcerned will become concerned and understand what can be done to equalize the rights of all genders, which is currently occurring in many places. By examining this object, it is hoped that the reader's perspective on gender inequality will shift.

### **1.2.Statement of the Problem**

In this context, the question of this study can be formulated as follows:

1. What are gender Inequality reflected in Mulan?
2. What are the effects of gender inequality reflected in Mulan?
3. What are Mulan's effort to realize gender equality?

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

This research was conducted to answer the research question posed in the problem statement. The goals are set as follows:

1. To explain the gender inequality that occurred in Mulan.
2. To illustrate the effects of gender inequality in Mulan.
3. To explain Mulan's efforts to realize gender equality.

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

This study focuses on the gender inequality and social status differences of the protagonists of the film, namely Hua Mulan, as the Legendary Female Warrior from China. This research is to find out about gender inequality in Mulan. These effects occurred because of gender inequality in Mulan, and to understand how Mulan's efforts to achieve gender equality by applying Kate Millett's theory.

The scope of this research discusses the rights that women should have, such as the freedom to determine their own life choices and the right to gender equality. The other focus is entirely on Mulan's persistence as a woman warrior for gender equality.

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

This study is intended to provide benefits and increase the reader's awareness about the critical nature of gender equality. For English Literature students, this research should serve as inspiration for their essay or thesis. For readers, the authors want to show that women and men are entitled to equal social status in society and to be treated equally.

## **1.6. The Approach of the Study**

In this study, researchers analyze the movie "Mulan" using a contextual approach. This approach refers to various schools and methodologies that do not consider literary texts as independent and independent works of art but rather more comprehensive.

To analyze this research, the writer uses the feminism theory from Kate Millett. There are several steps that will be conducted before analyzing the data and they are as follows: First, the writer watches the film Mulan, reads the text of the film script, and understands the topic of the problem. Second, the writer identifies the problem formulation, collects the appropriate theory, and looks for journals and references. After that, the researcher analyzed the data based on Kate Millett's feminist theory. In the last step, the writer interprets the results of the data that has been analyzed.

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

The research organization is organized into five (five) chapters. Chapter 1: Introduction, this chapter consists of 7 (seven) sub-chapters, the first chapter is the research background, problem statement, research purpose, research scope, research significance, method, research and organization of the work. Chapter II: Literature Review contains the director's biography and a synopsis of the Mulan movie. Chapter III: Theoretical Framework, this

chapter includes theories that will be used to analyze the film. Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion: This chapter contains the analysis of the data, as findings. This chapter also provides the discussion. Chapter 5: Conclusions and Recommendations, this chapter contains conclusions and recommendations for further research.