

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literature is a snapshot of everyday life that has been given meaning and direction by the author's view of the universe. For the author, literature is a potent medium through which to express his or her worries about the aesthetic experience of giving individuals access to fresh food. According to Hudson (2006), literature is essential documentation of what men have seen, observed, and thought about the parts of life that are of the most immediate and long-term relevance to all of us. As a result, it is fundamentally a language-based manifestation of life. According to Dyke in Rosales (1995), literature consists of these writings that reflect native and living meaning in words of appeal and strength, infused with the culture's personality in an artistic form of lasting attraction. According to those arguments, literature appears to use the power of words to convey the author's thoughts, interests, personality, and culture.

A literary work is a type of writing that uses words as the foundation for a picture, a concept, or a tale that is structured in a meaningful way. Literature is considered as a type of art with a literary aesthetic that is distinct from the everyday forms we employ. There are two types of literary work: creative writing and literary

analysis. A literary work can be a drama, fiction, essay, biography, or it may occasionally deal with an imaginary work like a play, novel, or piece of poetry.

There have been many series of literary works, but the most highlighted recently are novels and films. The success of a different Disney film directed by Niki

Caro, namely the Live Action *Mulan* Film (2020), has managed to bring a different Disney film unusually into the spotlight in several countries. The plot and presentation of the story are so interesting because there are many moral messages that can be taken from this film.

In a patriarchal society, women will be oppressed by men in any aspects. Patriarchy is the male hierarchical ordering of society. The patriarchal system is preserved, via marriage and the family, through the sexual division of labor and society (Eisenstein 17). Women will be forced to work only in the house (domestic work), for example, and they are only used by men as a sexual object. This system only gives a space for men to be the “first sex”, and at the same time it makes women have to rely on and exist to serve men to be defined as the “second sex”. This hierarchical sexual ordering maintains the oppression of the women by men both in the family and society.

According to Brewer, women’s oppression is social, not biologically given, and has evolved over time (Engels 9). This understanding will give effects to the treatments which women will have in the public sphere. They are located as inferior and men are located as superior. It is socially constructed and it develops mostly in

any societies or any cultures. This situation makes them defined as the “other”. Society makes women as a target for male domination genderism, sexism, or even racism.

Culture refers to society and its way of life. It is defined as a set of values and beliefs, or a cluster of learned behaviors that we share with others in a particular society, giving us a sense of belongingness and identity. Because of this, cultural understanding is becoming even more important because of the call to interact with many individuals from other countries and other cultures (Lee, 2006). Bodley (1999) further adds three basic components of culture, namely: what people think, what they do, and the material products they produce. All forms of culture exhibit unique ways and value systems that aid and affect individuals in their perception and reaction to different life circumstances.

The application of the perception of patriarchy in its essence to the social system and social order places the role of social actors in high regard. Sastryani (2007: 65) states that the perception of patriarchy is a system of social grouping that is very concerned with the father's lineage or in other words the essence of men is the main consideration to be placed as the object of the actor of the social system.

In patriarchy, a social system positioning a man as a superior and a woman as inferior creates the pattern of sex role behavior which embedded deeply in the mind of both man and woman (Anderson, 1997: 13). It means that the system of the

culture and their dependent to men, positioning woman is easily to be exploited. Patriarchal society uses rigid gender roles, to ensure that women remain passive. Therefore, a way for women to break the power of men over women is not feasible to first realize that women are not destined separately to be passive, as well as men are not destined to become active.

Patriarchal culture cannot be separated from women. The domination of men over women has become a social reality in various countries. According to Bressler (2007, p.159)," patriarchal culture is a system where women are considered as "property" and men as humans. In this case, men are the subject, and men can arrange women in social and cultural life. It makes the women try to fight for their degrees and rights and free them from the patriarchal culture". The patriarchal culture will continue as long as society continues to construct status and role itself.

The patriarchal system portrayed in Chinese culture is that the policies that apply are made by men. Rules and punishments are made by men and implemented for both men and women. Chinese women in particular are presented as submissive and unwilling to challenge their position. The dominant patriarchal culture results in more major decisions being made by men than by women. In the 2020 live-action film

Mulan, the patriarchal cultural system is depicted through the main female character. Hua Mulan, the main character, experiences a patriarchal cultural system where she has to follow existing rules. There are two other characters in the story whose plot reinforces patriarchy in the live-action Mulan (2020): Mulan's sister and

the Witch. Mulan's sister is an ordinary girl in her time, not gifted with super powers like her older sister. In the version of the film that actually focuses on empowering women, Mulan's sister may have been inspired by Mulan to dictate her own life choices. However, when Mulan returns home, her sister runs up to her, excitedly declaring that she is "matched" to marry him. Mulan's sister is nothing special, serving to illustrate that normal women, unlike the magical Mulan, must remain confined to prescribed societal roles. Another character that reinforces patriarchy does so in the opposite way, showing how a woman who steps over her "place" must be punished. The Witch is meant to be a dramatic cover for Mulan, another woman gifted with supernatural abilities who dares to present herself as a warrior. The witch character has more powers than any other character in the film. In the storyline of this film, the witch must face retribution by dying for using her abilities outside the status quo. This section describes the attitudes of the Chinese towards society and gender roles.

According to (Fadlilah et al., 2021), film is an example of the endless mass media. Given that the film is used as a medium of expression that aims to make the public get the messages contained in a scene from the film. Each scene can provide meaning values, norms and so on, which can influence people's mindsets about the films presented. Film functions as a medium of expression, empowering the wider community as well as developing ideas, arts, culture, education and entertainment. Moreover, it also functions as a source of current information and a medium that conveys a message from the maker to the general public.

Literature is a form of expression of human thought where people can think of various ideas and ways to convey their experience in order to provide broad insight in making scenarios. Animated characters, visuals and scenarios are important frameworks in a literary work, and films are adaptations of literary works that have these elements (Ramrao, 2016). Films in particular are adaptations of literary works that contain elements such as characters, visual animation, and scenarios (Keles,2015).

One of the famous animated film productions is The Walt Disney (Salden, 2019). Disney animated films are suitable for children and adults because the types of genres are mostly live-action, musical animation, comedy, family, horror and many other types of genres that Disney can present to its viewers. Thus, Disney movies are suitable for all ages from children, teenagers, to adults at once (Moran, 2016). Walt Disney changed the concept of the main female character in the film to be more feminist, this is where they enter a new era in which a beautiful princess full of tenderness becomes a princess who is independent, strong and can make decisions to determine her own destiny (England et al., 2011).

Mulan (1998), Moana (2016), Beauty and The Beast (1991), Tangled (2010), Frozen (2013) and many more are Walt Disney films that raise the topic of feminism. Feminism is one of the ideas that can have a big impact on people's mindsets, so Walt Disney gave a genre change to one of his animated films and it becomes one of the biggest influences of feminism (Hays, 2019). Disney has changed the main female character in the film to be strong, brave and full of intelligence (Hays, 2019). Behind the main female character in Disney Princess

who is masculine, strong and brave, she still gives a soft nature as a woman in the film (England et al., 2011). Walt Disney wanted to convey to all moviegoers that women are not weak and can be despised. Fa Mulan (1998) and Live-action Mulan (2020) are the examples of Disney films that show masculine and feminine traits in the main female character, which aim to break patriarchy in society (Listiani, 2020).

In this study, researchers are interested in examining the film Mulan because of the uniqueness of the story and the unusual role of the main character. Also the problem of patriarchal culture during the ancient Chinese dynasty. Apart from that the moral message is very inspiring and can motivate researchers, in this film the efforts made by the main character are to fight for women to have the same rights as men. Therefore, the researcher intends to analyze social feminism associated with patriarchal culture in the main character in the film Mulan (2020). Therefore, researchers are interested in conducting a study entitled “PATRIARCHALCULTURE REFLECTED IN THE FILM LIVE-ACTION MULAN (2020)”.

1.2 Limitation of problem

In line with problem identification, this research focuses on understanding the phenomenon of patriarchal culture. Here I want to focus on discussing and researching: The main woman character, the characterization of the main woman character, the social setting, and the patriarchal culture that prevailed during the dynastic period in the film Mulan (2020).

1.3 Research Question

1. Who is the main woman character in the movie "Mulan (2020)"?
2. How is the characterization of the main women character in the movie "Mulan (2020)"?
3. How is the social settings in the movie "Mulan (2020)"?
4. How is the patriarchal culture review in the movie "Mulan(2020)"?

1.4 The Objective of the Research

1. To identify the main woman character in the movie "Mulan (2020)".
2. To identify the characterization of the main character in the movie "Mulan (2020)"?
3. To identify the social settings in the movie "Mulan (2020)".
4. To identify the patriarchal culture review in the movie "Mulan (2020)".

