

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Society is firmly rooted in the cultural construction of men and women. The stereotypes associated with one gender, whether it be male or female, have the power to influence people's attitudes and behaviors in such a way that the discourse favors the dominant gender and devalues the weaker one. Men and women alike should take note of this. Despite the fact that men still hold a higher position than women. According to Mason (In McDonald, 2001) gender systems provide a distinction between men and women's rights and obligations as well as a prescribed distribution of labor and responsibilities.

These characteristics, opportunities, and connections are socially formed and acquired through socialization. They are contextually and temporally specific, as well as dynamic. The gender system is twofold consisting first of gender roles, which are the socially constructed roles and expectations for men and women, often related to the division of household labour. The second aspect of gender systems is gender equality, which is the level of institutionalized inequality between men and women at the macro- or societal level, often related to macro-level indicators of national gender equality levels.

The idea of woman are not human, they are just birthing instruments of society. Women are stripped of their identity referred only by their role such as Handmaid. Marta, or Wife. They have no rights or freedom and are keep under strict ruling as their bodies are necessary for the survival of humans and there for the survival of the government. (Atwood, 1985).

The response to this gave rise to many views about women in the early days of the feminist wave that demanded women's rights and gender equality. Women, as human beings, have the same values as men. Along with the progress of the times, women slowly carry out their movements to reach the desired point of gender equality. This has gone through a long struggle so that women have gotten to a place where they can be said to be equal to men, although it is understood that at any time the discourse of women's subordination can arise with different entities.

Issues about gender equality are closely related to resistance, which is an attitude of survival, defense, trying to fight, and action with the power and resources owned. Resistance is an intriguing topic in feminist studies. Resistance is a response to rejecting laws, stigmas, and stereotypes that subordinate and marginalize women. Resistance does not require justification for the nature of women's powerlessness but requires positive action that shows the resilience and strength of women wrapped in feminine aesthetics in various aspects of life (Irianto, 2003).

Women's resistance grows as a reflection of power feminism. Feminism of

power motivates women to identify as fellow women and not suffer in silence from powerlessness. Women's resistance refers to a woman's potential, which is a reflection of her life experience. "Feminism is a perspective, way of thinking, and ideology to achieve gender justice" (Murphy, 2004). Naomi Wolf is the initiator of power feminism who speaks out loud about the power and resilience of women and strongly rejects the powerlessness of women and the pioneering role of women in all areas of life. Naomi Wolf states that being honest about seeing women's dark sides is both empowering and morally good. Naomi Wolf asserts that women have power; this does not imply that women are monsters with heavy fighting weapons, but rather that they take aggressive actions that benefit themselves and others.

According to Wolf, the principle of power feminism consists of five principles: women matter as much as men do; women have the right to determine their lives; women matter as much as men do; women have the right to determine their lives; women's experience matter; women have the right to tell the truth about their experiences; women deserve more of whatever it is they are not getting enough of because they are women: respect, self-respect, education, safety, health, representation, money (Wolf, 1993).

Seeing that the struggle is not easy and can be broken, as well as the belief that men and women have the same values in life, women can do whatever they want without looking to men for guidance. In a feminist perspective, being strong for women is an obligation; at least, this is a step that is constructed for women to

fight men in Harry Bradbeer's movie *Enola Holmes*.

Enola Holmes, a movie directed by Harry Bradbeer from a screenplay by Jack Thorne that adapts the first novel in the *Enola Holmes Mysteries* series by Nancy Springer, tells a story about Enola Holmes, who, as the main character of the movie, experiences struggle that reflects a woman's resistance when she travel to London to find her mother. While looking for her mother, Enola is forced by her two older brothers to become the "girl" she should be at that time, but she refuses and prefers to be whatever she wants to be as her mother told her. As a result, the movie portrays how gender norms, gender relations, and gender stratification-based traditional views of women contribute to women's challenges. This movie is worth talking about because of the similarities between Enola Holmes' problems in the story and the challenges that women encounter in society. Thus, the conventional norms of women in society, as well as Enola's struggle to make women's choices and voices matter in society, become the main focus of feminism in *Enola Holmes*.

The aim of this study is to describe the form of female resistance from Naomi Wolf perspective in the movie. Thus, this study will also follow Enola's journey and character development of how could she able to become whatever she wants to be as a woman.

1.2 Limitation of the Problem

There are several topics that can be analyzed and discussed in the film *Enola Holmes* (2020), but in this study, the scope of the research will focus on the

sociological aspect of the main character while she was trying to find her mother. The researcher will try to aim the female resistance in Victorian Era as showed in the movie and also the character development of the main character; how could she able to become whatever she wants to be as a woman.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the background of this study, the following question is formulate to match the research problem:

1. How is the characterization the main woman character in Enola Holmes (2020) movie?
2. How is the women resistance reveal in Enola Holmes (2020) movie?

1.4 Objective of the Research

Based on research question above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To analyze the main woman characterization in Enola Holmes (2020) movie.
2. To reveal the women's resistance in Enola Holmes (2020) movie conducted by the main woman character.