

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

In recent years, some films begin to represent women as strong female heroines. Women, nowadays, are portrayed as smart-strong icons who have a lot of skills and talents. These things are claimed as the woman representation. According to David Gauntlett (2008, p.279) “the traditional views of a woman as a housewife or low status worker has been kick-boxed out of the picture by the feisty, successful ‘girl power’ icons.”

The woman representation is immediately related to the feminism criticism. For example, if the woman is represented as a smart female, it will be related to the feminism theory such as the statement of Mary Wolltenscarft (compiled in Dian Nurrachman 2016, p. 143), who says that “the education is the important part to can keep the women going out of drawing when they group their thoughts.” It means, woman representation is not only about physicality, but also about the intelligence, that is why women begin to be represented as smart one because the director has been admitted it.

The researcher found that the problems in this research are how the directors of some popular films in the recent years are portrayed a woman in the different and unusual way.

In some past films or novels, the women were portrayed as a minoricons as the statement of David Gauntlett (2008, p. 47) who says “In the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, only 20 to 35 per cent of characters were female. By the mid-1980s, there were more women in leading roles, but still there were twice as many men on screen”, but, nowadays, women are have a lot of roles in some films. The researcher wants to analyze women representation that appears in some popular literatures such as the movies in the year 2000 and its relation with the feminism.

The researcher also wants to compare the way of directors in *Miss Congeniality* and *Charlie's Angels* films portraying the women in the different representation although that both of films have the same genre, production year, and plot. The directors in each films also represent the women in some different characteristics. They have different ways to transmit their skills and talents as women. The researcher chooses these films because she is interested in the characters of Gracie in *Miss Congeniality* and Natalie, Alex and Dylan in *Charlie's Angels* who represent as smart, strong, brave and adroit women.

Actually, there are some other researchers who have analyzed about the theory of woman's representation in a film, novel or the other literature works, such as the research by Anisa (2012), Habibah (2012), and Azzis Fameia (2013). Anisa told about the woman representation in Jean P. Sasson's *Princess* from the Character of Sultana. She discusses the woman who has the feminist ideology by being a courageous, optimistic, educated, decisive, patience, independent, and merciful woman. Next is Habibah who tells about the woman representation in Joy Cowley's *Brother Grimms Fairytales*. She states that gender and racial stereotypes of woman

in film are not dead, but they are making progress. And the last is Azzis Fameia which discuss about the portrayal of women character as rebels in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and Ayu Utami's *Saman*. She states that the portrayal of women character as rebels has relation with reality. Actually the reseacher found more than 3 previous researches that relate to this research. There are more than 20 researches that the researcher found which discuss about the woman representation in different movies. But, the researcher only take out 3 researches to be the previous studies in this research.

Although there are some researches which have been discussed about the woman representation, but this topic is more interesting and different than the previous one because this research analyzes and compares two objects to got the gap of woman representation in both of objects. The objects of this research also make this research more different than the previous researches because it uses the popular literature which is the film in 2000. The films in the year 2000 begin to use women as the main characters more than men. The films also have different plots from the previous films especially the films around 1950-1990. The plot is more attractive, more easy to understand, and more fresh than the past films. The genre of these films is action-comedy that using a woman to be the main character.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in identifying and comparing the character of Gracie (the main character in *Miss Congeniality*) with the character of Natalie, Dylan, and Alex (the main characters in *Charlie's Angels*) as the women representation and also analyze it using the theory of Feminism. The researcher will apply representation theory which supported by feminism approach

in this research. As a result, this research is entitled: *Woman Representation in Donald Petrie's Miss Congeniality (2000) and McG's Charlie's Angels (2000)*.

### **1.2 Research Questions**

1. What are the woman characteristics found in *Miss Congeniality* and *Charlie's Angels* which relate to the woman representation based on the word choices?
2. What are the differences between the woman representation in *Miss Congeniality* and *Charlie's Angels* based on the word choices?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

Dealing with the research questions above, this research has two objectives gained by the researcher as follows :

1. To find out the woman characteristic in Hart, Natalie, Dylan and Alex characters.
2. To find out the differences between woman representation in *Miss Congeniality* and *Charlie's Angels*.

### **1.4 Research Significance**

There are some benefits which are expected by conducting this research. The benefits of the research are as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

This research provides the knowledge of representation and feminism, especially in the literary studies of woman representation in film. This research will also help to enrich the knowledge dealing with woman representation analysis.

## 2. Practical Benefits

This research will give deeper understanding in the literary field as the reference to other researchers in analyzing Donald Petrie's *Miss Congeniality* and McG's *Charlie's Angels* using their own different perspective. Moreover, this research can be useful as a reference and alternative information for others especially English literature students who wrote the similar research.

### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

There are some key terms used in this research. The key involving in this research are the representation, the woman representation and feminism. The definitions are below :

#### 1. Representation

According to Dickerson (2004, p. 5), "representation is a modification of our mind, and as the quoted passage indicates, are the objects of a great variety of mental acts. We are, for example, conscious or aware of representations, and variously compare, combine, recognise, synthesise and employ them". Representation is also the way of our mind imitating something that we see with our senses, and compare, combine or recognise it into different creation than previous one. Actually, the representation is already in our mind and it is a kind of mental acts.

## 2. Woman Representation

The representation or the portrayal of women as different character that shows a new perspective in that woman herself.

## 3. Woman Characteristic

The characteristics that usually appear in women and also should had by women.

## 4. Feminism

All things which related with the women's cases such as the women's rights, the women equality with men, the women's struggle, and many more about women's life. According to Fakhri (2008, pp. 99-100) who says that "feminism is a step to fight for the fair system and structure of the women's life.

