

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In the chapter I, it consists of five components, they are the background of the research, statements of the problem, objectives of the research, significances of the research, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background of Research

In human life, human divided in two gender roles as male and female. Those grouping also influence the difference personality that it called masculine and feminine. Masculine is always refers to male and feminine refers to female. However, masculinity (Pramudika, 2015) is formed not because it is born by genetic from a man, but it is formed and acculturated by social behaviour that learned and imitated through the process of social interaction. Tong (2013) also stated that the general assumption of gender such as females with the feminine qualities and males with the masculine one are based on the social construction.

Traditionally, male is associated with leadership, initiative, competitiveness, and assertive, whereas female is associated with nurturance, sensitivity, affiliation, and tenderness. However, in the modern era, the grouping between them is not can be differentiated. Masculine and feminine can be associated for female, and also for male. Eventhough between male and female has

a different of thinking, they have the both personality that organized social relation (Connell, 2005).

Halberstam (1998) stated that both male and female are equal and can have the masculinity traits in them. in other words, male can have the traits of nurturance, sensitivity, affiliation, and tenderness. Female also can have the traits of leadership, initiative, competitiveness, and assertive.

Therefore, this research is interested to reveal and find out how the masculinity of female, especially from a heroine character in *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie. This movie written and directed by George Miller that released in 2015. This movie also known as a greatest action movie of all time. The characters of male in this movie are dominant. However, this movie shows a female character who bring the concept of masculinity as a heroine of the story.

In some story works such as novel, short story and especially movie, the terms of hero and heroine refers to the main character or a protagonist in the story. As Altenberg and Lewis (1966) said that protagonist is a character which called as hero for male and heroine for female, because those characters are always does the ideal roles like as someone who follows the rules or have value for society.

In term of heroism story, hero and heroine as the main character of the story has significant differences of their characterization traits. Hero will perform of masculinity and heroine will perform of femininity. Jeffrey (1996) in his article journal about gender and the action heroine, he said that in one of the most dominant genres of popular movies since the early 1980s as action movie, it has constructed

the body of hero or males as spectacle, like displayed their masculinity as the muscles. He (1996) also states that in action movies in 1980, it deny any blurring of gender boundaries that male always shows active, while female are present only to be rescued. In 1990s, women or female character being placed at the center of the film where traditionally male-only in it. The presence of heroine are started more capable of defending themselves and defeating the bad guys (Brown, 1996). The female character as a hero or being called heroine indicates a developing acceptance of nontraditional roles for women.

*Mad Max: Fury Road* movie tells about a man named Max and a woman named Furiosa which are the main character as hero and heroine of the movie. They survives on the civilisation which has collapsed by war and become a captive that haunted by a bad group called “War Boy” that lead by Immortan Joe. They have in a battle of war by car in a sand storm. Furiosa, as a heroine in the movie, she has a brave and strenght personality as the other man character. In the end of the story, she succeeded in saving some women who were discriminated by some bad guys. Thus, seeing the struggles, attributes, behaviors, and roles of Furiosa as heroine in the movie will be the focus in this research to relate about her masculinity and how her masculinity brings some impact for the other characters.

Thereafter, this research was inspired by several previous studies. The first previous study is by graduating paper entitle “*Representasi Kekuasaan Perempuan dalam film Mad Max: Fury Road*” by Uswatun Hasanah (2016) from University of Diponegoro Semarang. The research aim is anayled the streotype of character. It also described the power that the female character have is constructing the

masculinity by Sara Mills' theory about character/roles, schemata, focalization, and fragmentation. As the result of the research, the researcher found that in the *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie, the female character presented a woman power to break the man's oppression.

The second previous study of this research is by an article journal entitle "The Radical Feminism of Imperator Furiosa's Character in *Mad Max: Fury Road* Film (2015)) by Soraya Prasasty Marito Sibarani, M. Natsir, and Fatimah M (2020) from Mulawarman University. The research focused on how the representasion of radical feminism by Imperator Furiosa character in the movie. The researcher uses the theory of radical feminism by Rosemarie P Tong (2009) and characterization by Kelly Griffth. As the result of the research, the researcher found that the Furiosa character shows the radical feminism by her appearance, dialogue, speech and action. The researcher found that Furiosa character as a female, she shows two kinds of radical feminism; libertarian feminism and radical cultural feminism. Libertarian feminism that Furiosa showed is where she has androgynous attitude and seized the reproduction that the man needs, and radical cultural feminism that Furiosa showed is where the reproduction has become a trump card to gain women power.

The next previous study is by an article journal entitle "An Analysis of Women Harassments in "*Mad Max: Fury Road*" Movie Using Feminism Theory by Simone de Beauvoir" by Syavira Dewinta and Teguh Kasprabowo (2021) from Stikubank University. The research focused on analyzing the women harassments that presented in *Mad Max: Fury Road*. This research shows how the struggle of women character to against the men in the movie with the femism theory by Simon

de Beauvoir. The result of the research showed that there were several kinds of harassments found in the movie such as physical violence, sexual violence and reproductive coercion harassment to women.

The next previous study of this research is by graduating paper entitle “The Potrayal of Letty’s Masculinity in *Fast and Furious 6* Movie” by Jazilatus Silfiyah (2017) from English Department, Faculty of Adab dan Cultural Sciences of Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University Yogyakarta in 2017. The research describes how the masculinity was portayed by character of Letty in *Fast and Farious* movie. To find out the masculinity of Letty characger, the research uses the masculinity theory by Judith Halberstam and female masculinity theory by R.W Connell. The researcher also uses the theory of movie by Amy Villarejo to analyze the scenes that presenting the Letty character’s masculinity. As the result of the research, the researcher found that Letty’s masculinity such as domination, power and competitive person, and she also has physical power like men.

The next previous study is by a thesis research entitle “The Masculinity of Heroine in Suzanne Collins’ Adventure Novel’s *The Catching Fire*” by Elsha Marshus (2017) from English Literature Faculty of Adab dan Humanities of Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung in 2017. In the research, female masculinity is represented by heroine character named Katnis Everdeen in *The Catching Fire* novel. To find out the heroine masculinity in the novel, the researcher uses the hero theory by R.W Connell and female masculinity theory by Halberstam. As the result of the research, the heroine in the movie that shows tomboy character

by her attribute and behavior is showed her masculinity. The Besides, her masculinity also showed by her action towards men.

The last previous that the researcher found is by a thesis research entitle “The Masculinity and The Heroine of Clarice Starling in *The Silence of The Lambs* Movie Script” by Kurniawati (2019) from Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung. The research focus on how the masculinity and the heroine presented in movie script entitled *The Silence of The Lambs*. The researcher uses the female masculinity by Halberstam (1998) to find how the masculinity constricted in the movie script and uses heroine theory by Bernstein (2010) to find how the heroine portrayed in the movie script. As the result of the research, the movie script presented a female detective named Clarice Starling as the main character who has a masculine aspect such as dominant, intelligent, strong, aggressive, self-confident, brave, decisive, paternal and rational. The main character also showed that she is presented as a heroine, where the heroine usually faced the adventure with some dangerous obstacles.

Based on the explanation about heroine masculinity and several previous studies above, this research aims to examine the heroine masculinity in *Mad Max: Fury Road*. This research will using the masculinity theory by Sandra L Bem (1974) and also female masculinity theory by Judith Hamberstam (1998) and R.W. Connell (2005) to discuss further about the representation of heroine masculinity in the movie. Besides, the description of heroine that presented in the movie will be discussed futher through the character and characterization in the movie.

## 1.2 Statements of the Problem

Generally, masculinity always relates to male that has the masculine traits and always being a main character for the hero character. However, in *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie has displayed a masculine female character as main character among the male characters who dominate. Fury, as a female character, she does not show as a female in general, but she shows as a masculine female character and become a heroine in the movie, she also brought a masculinity concept that shown through her attributes and the way she acts to solve the problem.

Based on the statement of the problem above, the researcher has decided the research questions in the following:

1. How is the heroine portrayed in *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie?
2. How is the representation of heroine's masculinity in *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie?
3. What is the impact of heroine's masculinity to the other character in *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the question of research above, the research will be found the objectives of the research as follows:

1. To find out the heroine is portrayed in *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie.
2. To find out the representation of heroine's masculinity in *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie.

3. To find out the impact of heroine's masculinity to the other characters in *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie.

#### **1.4 Significances of the Research**

1. Theoretically

Theoretically, the research is generally directed to the English Literature students and the other readers and researcher. The writer expected to give impact and add a comprehensive study on literature, especially about the heroine or female masculinity that implemented by a character in literature works or movies. The researcher also wants to share some knowledge about how the female masculinity presented or portrayed by a heroine, especially in the *Mad Max: Fury Road* movie. It also will be a reference for the other researcher in analyzing the heroine or female masculinity on the character in the movie.

2. Practically

Practically, this research might be useful for the reader to get more knowledge regarding analyzing the literary works such as the movie. Besides, expected to make the reader will be interested in literary work especially the movie. From that, the readers might be understanding in many perspectives regarding the issue in some movies.



## **1.5 Definitions of Key Term**

In making easy to understand the research, these following definitions of key term provide as important terms to comprehend the content of the research as below:

### **1.5.1 Representation**

Representation is the process to describe something on an object. According to Stuart Hall (1995), the concept of representation is to reveal the things on our mind using the language. The language can be describe a meaning from some perspectives.

### **1.5.2 Hero or Heroine**

Hero or Heroine is the main character in the story. According to Vogler (2007), Heroine or Hero are known as someone of figure of peace bearer and brave; and always connected with self-sacrifice for is or her signifance. The different between heroine and hero is seen by the gender. Heroine is represents for female.

### **1.5.3 Masculinity**

Masculinity is a socially construction that always represented a leadership, courage, strength, and independent. Mostly, masculine is always associated to male behaviourly and attributely. According to Connel(Connell, 2005, p. 68), in the modern era, maculinity is substantially a social construct. Masculinity does not exist except in contrast with feminist. Masculinity is effect from domination by men to women. We can see masculinity not as an isolated object, but as an aspect of larger

structure. Masculinity is a personal identity and extended in the world merge in organized social relations. Therefore, this construction is become a character of people in the real life and story.

#### **1.5.4 Female Masculinity**

Besides male, masculinity also can be associated by female by its nature that influent by socially and culturally. Female masculinities are framed as the rejected scraps of dominant masculinity in order that male masculinity may appear to be the real thing (Halberstam, 1998). Thus, female also have the masculinity on their self for their courage, strength, and independent. Furthermore, Halberstam (1998) also state that the female masculinity is a way of representing in a manner that challege dominant discouse on gender sexuality. It means, there's a changing on female character from social construct that female is always being feminine.

