

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

Feminism (the character is called Feminist) is a women's movement that demands emancipation or equal rights and justice with men. Feminism is not like any other view or understanding. Feminism does not originate from a theory or concept based on a single theoretical formula. That is why, there is no abstraction of a specific understanding of the application of feminism for all women throughout the ages.

Men and women have differences both in terms of biological as well as psychological and cultural. In this regard, there are two terms to explain these differences, namely: male and female which refers to sex, and masculine and feminine which refers to gender.

The definition of feminism can change due to the understanding or views of feminists which are based on historical and cultural realities, as well as the level of awareness of perceptions and behaviors. Even among women of almost similar types there are disagreements and debates about feminist thought, some based on reasons (e.g. cultural roots) of patriarchy and male domination, and up to the final resolution of women's struggles for environmental non-exploitation, class liberties, background, race, and gender.

The definition of feminism from the Big Indonesian Dictionary is a women's movement that seeks to demand full equality of rights between women and men. In this study, feminism theory is more directed to literature related to feminist literary criticism, namely literary studies that direct the focus to analysis on women, taking into account the theory of feminist criticism of French feminists which has been heavily influenced by psychoanalysis.

The notion of feminism itself according to Najmah and Khatimah Saidah in their book entitled *Revisi Politik Perempuan* (2003:34) states that feminism is an awareness of the oppression and exploitation of women that occurs both in the family, at work, and in society as well as the existence of conscious action of both men and women to change the situation lexically.

Feminist literary criticism, according to Sugihastuti, (2016: 8) starts from the main problem, namely the assumption of sexual differences in the interpretation and action of the meaning of literary works. Feminist literary criticism is considered a new life in criticism based on the feelings, thoughts, and responses that come out of the “readers as women” based on their vision of the role and position of women in the world of literature.

In addition, the birth of feminist films is driven by the fact that films tend to construct women’s reality in a biased manner and become a conservative force supporting patriarchal ideology (Zoonen, 1992: 81). One of the movies is *Enola Holmes*.

Sobur, (2004: 12) defines the strength and ability of films in reaching many social segments, then makes the experts believe that films have the potential to influence audiences. Unlike other mass media, film is an important social institution. Jowett, (1981: 67) said the content of the film is not only able to reflect but also create reality. Illustrates that female creators always bring ideas, concepts, or ideas about equality between women and men into the literary works they create. In accordance with the background of its birth, feminism as a political, social, and economic movement involves various sciences, one of which is literature. Hidayatullah, (2010, p. 5) explained that Feminism is the ideology of women’s liberation because inherent in all its approaches is the belief that women experience injustice because of their gender.

As for the definition of film, Boggs, and Dennis (2008:3) regard film as "a form of expression similar to other art media", formed through "a game of images/views, sounds, and movements that are fused and continuous." Here, Boggs and Dennis consider the film to bear similarities to various other art forms, among which are painting and photography, drama art, music art, even literary arts (poetry and novels). Although the media are different, films and literary works have the same function. Winokur (2001: 8-9) mentions the existence of 2 main functions of a film, namely the function of entertainment (entertainment) and the function of didacticism (deducts).

The function of didacticism here is a function in which films often contain an allegory, texts of surface meaning, which often refer to broader political, ethical, religious, and social contexts (Winokur, 2001: 8-9). Or to say, movies often contain cultural messages, both intentional and unintentional, that we can find through reflection.

On the otherhand Budianta, dkk (2002: 19) concluded literature work should be "entertaining as well as beneficial to the reader". It is said to be entertaining because literature gives beauty to various things in life in a distinctive way while providing space for imagination. While the benefits provided by literature are in the form of ideas or messages that can be likened to "sketches" or "portraits" of life. This function is then often made literature a means for social criticism

This connection between novel and film is seen from the side of the story, where both the film and the novel can tell a story full of detail from the perspective of the narrator. The things told in the novel can be depicted or told in the film, although it is possible to do so it takes a lot of special effects. Boggs and Dennis (2008: 41) make this clear by saying that "literature and film have a lot in common in their elements. It can even be said that perceptive film analysis depends entirely on the principles used in literary analysis: "This means that the narrative elements in the film (characters, settings, plots, storytelling structures) are the same as what a literary work has, or for that matter a novel.

According to Aristotle, literary works of various manifestations consist of 3 kinds, namely epic, lyric, and drama (Aristotle in Teuw, 1984: 109). Compared to other literary works such as epic or lyric, drama is closer in similarities to film. In line with Aristotle (Budianta, dkk, 2002: 112) argues that drama can be classified as a literary work because the medium used to convey the author's ideas or thoughts is language. Drama according to Budianta (2002: 95) is a genre of literary works whose physical appearance shows verbally there is a dialogue or conversation between the existing characters.

According to Yoga, a film consists of narrative elements and cinematic elements, the narrative elements in a film are included in the elements of literary works, such as the script in the film is a written narrative as a means of telling stories through the dialogue of the characters (Sudarisman, 2019).

Films have a clearer picture of the setting of place, time and atmosphere. Because in the film, the audience can clearly see when, where and what the character is doing at that time, compared to novels and short stories. In addition, films can present each character in the story through various aspects, such as visuals, audio, conversation, facial expressions and so on.

There are a lot of movies that are still coming up and being made. Researcher have watched several films with the same theme, namely the theme of feminism. Among them are

Little Woman (2019), Mulan (2020), and Enola Holmes (2021). After researcher considered the films above, researcher chose Enola Holmes's film (2020) which in that film has a clearer picture of liberal feminism compared to the other two films.

In the film *Little Women* (2019) only depicts feminism as a form of independence and freedom as a woman (Indriani: 2021), as is the case with the film *Mulan* (2020) (Subardja, Aviani: 2020). But it is different from the film *Enola Holmes* (2020) which has a clearer picture of liberal feminism. Such as Nadidah (2020) and Dinanti (2021) concluded in their research that in the film *Enola Holmes* depicts liberal feminism through the cast or several scenes in the film.

*Enola Holmes* is a movie that told about feminism in the Victorian era in England, she lives with her mother and her two brothers. His father died when she was a child. raised by her mother alone, her mother was a brave, intellectual and independent woman. She taught Enola things that women should not normally learn at that time, by studying various branches of science, Enola was not only educated intellectually with various literacies, but also forged her physical abilities by practicing tennis, sword fighting, and jujitsu empty handed martial arts. It should be noted that at that time, women in England focused more on personality schools and emphasized the way they looked and behaved in public.

There are some provens that *Enola Holmes's* film represented feminism.

Eudoria: Mother said, we were free to do anything at Ferndell, and be anyone.

The dialogue above, show her mother teaching or telling Enola that women can be anyone, even become a man.

*Eudoria: paint your own picture, Enola. don't be thrown off course by other people. Especially by men!*

Her mother also teaches Enola, she has to be independent and not get interrupted by other people, especially a man.

This is in line with liberal feminist thought which argues that women and men are created equal and have the same rights and must also have the same opportunities and also that each individual is given the freedom to choose what is "good" for himself as long as it does not harm others.

In this research, the writer chooses the “*Enola Holmes*” Movie because the Enola Holmes movie tell about the struggle for equal rights of voters. Considering that, the Enola Holmes film itself is set in 1884, at which time the Representation of the People Act 1884 in England was being formulated. Where the contents of the Representation of the People Act 1884 is that everyone has the right to vote. At that time only educated people had the opportunity to vote, and women did not have the right to vote at all. Enola’s mother along with a number of other women activists fought for equal suffrage at that time.

The previous studies Murensi Dinda Saputri, and Neisya using the same theory by Mary Wallstonecraft which is Liberal Feminism on her book title is vindication of the rights of women, Rivika Adha Dinanti using the same theory by Mary Wollstonecraft. The main discussion on this research is gender inequality in the Victorian Era.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background described above, the problems can be formulated as follows:

1. How is liberal feminism constructed in *Enola Holmes (2020)* film?
2. How is liberal feminism represented in *Enola Holmes (2020)* film?

## 1.3 Research Purposes

Based on the description of the problem formulation above, it can be concluded here that the objectives of this study

1. To analyses the feminism constructed in *Enola Holmes (2020)* film is.
2. To find out the liberal feminism represented in *Enola Holmes (2020)* Film.

## 1.4 Research Significances

This research is expected to provide benefits, as for the expected from this research are:

Practical Benefits

1. The results of this study can make it easier for the audience to help understand how to describe feminism in a film.

2. The results of this study are useful for readers and researchers to increase knowledge about how to describe feminism in literary works using Mary Wollstonecraft's theory.

#### Theoretical Benefits

1. Increase the knowledge of students majoring in English literature about literary works in the form of films.
2. The results of this study are expected to be a relevant reference for further research.
3. This research can be used as references for students who are trying to study feminism in literary works using Mary Wollstonecraft's theory.

## 1.5 Previous Researchs

1. The first research is by St Murensi Dinda Saputri, and Neisya, the title is *WOMAN'S STRUGGLE TOWARDS STEREOTYPES IN THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS: AN ENOLA HOLMES MYSTERY*. This research using the same theory by Mary Wallstonecraft which is Liberal Feminism on her book title is vindication of the rights of women. The difference is, this research object is the novel. Which discusses how women fight about stereotypes.
2. The second research is by Rivika Adha Dinanti, the title of the research is *GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE VICTORIAN ERA AS SEEN IN THE MOVIE ENOLA HOLMES*. This research using the same theory by Mary Wollstonecraft. The main discussion on this research is gender inequality in the Victorian Era.
3. The third research is by Nadidah, the title is *REPRESENTASI FEMINISME DALAM FILM ENOLA HOLMES ANALISIS SEMIOTIKA*. This research uses the semiotic theory of John Fiskye, and focuses on feminist representation, especially to the main character in the film.