CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the conduct of the research. This includes backround of research, research question, research objectives, purpose of research and significances of research.

1.1 Research Backround

Gender inequality is one of the most pressing problems facing the world today. Having different roles, creates discrimination and gender inequality in society which often harms both men and women. Gender inequality is discrimination on the basis of sex or gender causing one sex or gender to be routinely privileged or prioritized over another.Gender itself defined as the visible difference between men and women in terms of values and behavior. paradigm of society that considers women to be "weak" compared to men s what makes this discrimination appear. The difference in gender equality for men and women can be seen clearly from the positions in the field of work, where the majority of us know that the position of men is always above women. This stereotype has existed for a long time because the wider community considers that men can work more competently than women themselves.

According to Mosse (1996) and Irohmi (1990), said that gender bias is mainly experienced by women. Gender inequality is often experienced by women which stems from the existence of gender gaps in various aspects of life. In Indonesia itself, there are many women who still do not get the same rights and opportunities as men, due to the society tends to form gender constructions where men are often shown as leaders, strong and independent, while women

are shown as weak and dependent (Haryati, 2012). furthermore one of form of discrimination that is often received by women is sexual harrassment. Sexual harassment is an act of abusing the relationship between a woman and a man that harms one of the parties and can occur anywhere. One of the most prevalent instances of sexual harassment in society starting in the smallest context, such as homes, schools, companies, and even public areas. Sexual harassment often occurs to women due to a value system that sees women as inferior beings who are more vulnerable than men. Women are still positioned in a subordinated and marginalized position that must be controlled, exploited and enslaved by men, and women are still seen as second class citizens (Dewi, 2019). It can be concluded that women or female gender in our society are often discriminated against.

As a reflection of the reality that exists in society, there are not a few films or literary works that raise important social issues that often occur in society. Literature is primarily an imitation of life as it is and of social life in particular because literature is no substitute for sociology or politic. It has own justification and aim. It means that literary was born based on the societies' condition and literature is created to be understood and used by some societies. One of the social issues that are often encountered in society is gender discrimination. Restrictions on the role of women in patriarchal culture continue to bind and discriminate against women (Sakinah, 2017). Therefore the issue of gender discrimination has also become one of the good topics that can be made into a film, because in reality there is still often gender discrimination in social life which is at school, at work and even at home. The representation of women

in the film industry often gets negative stereotypes at home and abroad (Irawan, 2014). In the world of cinema, women tend to be depicted as supporting objects and men as the main objects. According to Mulvey in his book "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema", states that films circulating in society are said to be the result of the formation of a social patriarchal system. According to her, the presence of female characters in films not only creates meaning, but conveys meaning. By acting as carriers of meaning, women have a certain role in men's society which is indeed a social patriarchal system. Mulvey believes that women are actually "meaning bearers and not meaning makers," suggesting that women are not placed in roles where they can control a scene, but rather they are simply placed there to be observed from a scene. objective point of view. (Mulvey, 1975). This reflects how patriarchal structures within media tend to limit women's roles to visual or symbolic elements, reinforcing their lack of agency and autonomy. Researcher believe this critique is still relevant today, as many films continue to perpetuate these dynamics, placing women in roles that serve the male gaze rather than allowing them to control or influence the scene.

A movie, also known as a film, motion picture, or photoplay, is a collection of stable images that are displayed on a screen to give the appearance of moving images. Film can be considered a form of literature. Literature is about telling a story and entertaining its readers. Film is also the same way, it tells a story and entertains the audience. Same as literature works in general most films have character and plot development, theme, setting, a point of view, and other familiar literary devices that called intrinsic element. The difference between its is in the medium of delivery. Films with the main medium of delivery are

audiovisuals or moving images, while the main media for delivering novels are in the form of writing or storytelling. Therefore, films are literary works because all kinds of film presentation modes are in accordance with the features of literary texts and can also be explained in a textual framework. In addition, if examined properly, a film not only functions as a spectacle, but also contains a message and contains social ideas that describe people's lives, its like a literary text. Films will have a considerable impact on social change in society (Effendi, 2009). So films are often used to symbolically reflect social reality so that audiences can understand and interpret messages differently.

Moxie (2021) a drama film directed by Amy Poehler is one of film which rises gender discrimination as an issue of the story. The film revolves around Vivian Carter (Hadley Robinson), an intelligent but introverted 16-year-old teenager who ends up secretly leading a feminist revolution at his school. The story begins when Lucy (Alycia Pascual-Pean), as a new kid at Rockport High School, is bullied by Mitchell Wilson (Patrick Schwarzenegger). Vivian, who saw that Lucy continued to be harassed by Mitchell, felt uncomfortable and felt she had to help her friend.

Moxie (2021) is a film directed by Amy Poehler, produced by Paper Kite Productions and distributed by Netflix, February 2019. Apart from being an actress and director, Amy Poehler is also a comedian, writer, and producer. Having been in the entertainment world for a long time, in 2012 Amy won the Critics' Choice Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series and won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Television Musical or Comedy Series in 2014. In 2001, Amy started her own production company, Paper Kite

Productions. She received the 2016 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for co-hosting Saturday Night Live.

In this study, researchers will discuss the issue of gender discrimination that occurs in women using feminism theory in every scene that shows the form of rejection of sexual harassment against women in *Moxie (2021)*. Considerations or reasons for not choosing written literary works such as novels, poems, etc. that discuss women's discrimination, because the author believes that mass media including film, are now easily accessible sources of information. Currently, there are many subscription-based streaming service applications that allow members to watch TV shows and movies on internet-connected devices without ads. Lippmann in Mudjiyanto (2011), suggests that "world outside and pictures in our heads". Therefore the writer chose film as the object of research because the influence of film is very large in our current era especially for social issues such as gender discrimination.

The reason for choosing *Moxie (2021)* movie because the consideration that the Moxi is one of movie that has gender discrimination as the issue. Writer wanted to make readers struggle for women rights, particularly those living in patriarchal societies. The researcher believes that *Moxie (2021)* can influence people to be more conscious and open-minded regarding feminism. Cause this film was intended tenageer, the researcher think that *Moxie (2021)* is simple and easy to understand by any age group.

Many researchers have done studies on the image of women in a literary work therefore to facilitate the research process in this study, the researcher has also laid out some previous studies from variety sources. The sources included

thesis and journal. Earlier studies reffered by researchers were studies that had topics similar to this research.

The first paper is a thesis entitled *Wacana Penolakan Pelecehan Seksual Dalam Film Moxie written by Hervira Rahmadini Charunnisa (2021).* The presentation of the data in this thesis was using Sara Mills discourse analysis. In Sara Mills' discourse analysis, it focuses on how women are presented from the subject-object position and the writer-reader position. In this case, this thesis examines by observing the text through conversations and scenes that show the discourse of rejection of sexual harassment in the Moxie film.This research can also be useful and can become a basis for knowing how women can resist discrimination and sexual harassment that exist in the school environment through dialogue, pictures, and codes in the Moxie film.

Second paper is a thesis entitled Criticism Torward Gender Discrimination as Seen in the Script of the *Dictator Movie written by Cherry Jossie Michelle Rosentia Panjaitan (2017)*, from Sanata Dhama University. This paper has similarities with the use of theory but different in the selected object. The purpose of this study is to show criticism toward gender discrimination in the The Dictator Movie script by knowing the characteristics of the main character. This thesis also employs theories of character and characterization and gender discrimination. The findings of the study show there arefive of critics, the first is women are simply an object for men, the second is womeneducation are not necessary, the third is the existence of women is not important, thefourth is women have to fulfill the beauty standard, the fifth is women are notallowed to be independent.

The third paper is a thesis entitled G*ender Discrimination In 19TH Century In The Film ofLittle Women by Gilian Armstrong written by Atma Yunita (2018).* This paper has similarities to the theory but different in the object. This thesis analyses about gender discrimination in the 19th century in the film of Little Women by Gillian Armstrongto find out how do the female charcters struggle to rebel themselves from gender discrimination in the film. The findings of the study show kinds of gender discrimination that occur in Little Women films are discrimination in society, discrimination in education, discrimination in employment and discrimination in politics.The finding of this study is   also show   the way female characters struggle to rebel themselves fromgender discrimination are struggle in social life, struggle in education and struggle employment.

1.2 Research Question

As explained above, based on the background, several research questions have been formulated. The research questions in this study are as follows:

1. What are the forms of gender discrimination depicted in *Moxie* (2021)?

2. What are the forms of women's struggles against gender discrimination depicted in *Moxie* (2021)?

1.3 Research Objective

The objectives of this research were related to the research problem and aimed to address it. Based on the research problem above, this study intended to:

1. Identify the forms of gender discrimination depicted in *Moxie* (2021).

2. Examine women's struggles against gender discrimination depicted in *Moxie* (2021).

1.4 Research Significance

This research is expected to provide readers with new knowledge and insights to enhance their understanding and awareness of gender discrimination, especially sexual harassment. It aims to demonstrate how a research paper can offer valuable insights when studied, contributing to the creation of meaningful and impactful works.

Theoretically, research on *Moxie* (2021) is expected to expand knowledge in the field of English literature, particularly in studies applying feminist theory. This research also aims to develop a greater appreciation for literary works that explore women's representation in the media industry, including television and film, which has long been a compelling area of study. Furthermore, the results of this study are anticipated to enrich the body of knowledge in literary studies.

Practically, this research can serve as a reference for future studies, especially those focusing on issues such as gender discrimination and mental health. Additionally, this study is expected to benefit the researcher, readers, English lecturers, students, and anyone interested in analyzing similar topics. Specifically, this research contributes to the field of literature and serves as a valuable resource for English Literature students at the Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati, Bandung.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid miss-understanding of specific terms used in this study, the definition of key terms are as follows:

1. Gender Discrimination

Gender discrimination refers to the unfair treatment of individuals based on their gender. According to Kouta and Kaite (2011) gender discrimination is any form of distinction and exclusion made on the basis of socially constructed gender positions and roles that prevent individuals from exercising their full human rights.

2. Women Struggles

Women struggle is the result of women's motivation to reach women goal to gain equality. It occurs because there are women discrimination to get access to the same opportunities and treatments as men in their society and family (Rizki and Sari 2018).

1. Feminism

In literary studies, feminism is related to the concept of feminist literary criticism, which focuses analysis on women's issues. (Sugihastuti, 2019). Research in feminist literature aims to understand the position and role of women as reflected in literary works (Suryorini, 2012). Feminist literary works are expected to provide insight into female characters through the concept of literary criticism.