

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background, statement of problem, research objective, research significances, and definition of key terms, conceptual framework, and previous study.

A. Background of research

Women have experienced a bitter reality from time to time, from the historical development of human civilization, it has been noted that women are powerless, weak, oppressed group, and become "the second group" because the main group is always men. Beauvoir (as cited in the Beauvoir, 2011: 35) argues that men are subjects which absolute. While women are the Other that inessential and experience oppression. Women are treated unjustly in society. They experience various forms of oppression such as inequality of rights in the economic sphere, political sphere, law, profession and other forms of oppression.

Women's oppression caused by some factors. Gender as a social construction became one of the aspects that caused women's oppression. In gender construction, there are classifications of men and women namely masculine (male) and feminine (female). Men are strong, tough, logical, powerful, and not whiny. While women are fragile, weak, helpless, irrational, and whiny. Besides, the existence of women is contextually different from men in the culture and religious perspective. Other than that, governments also play a role in the women's oppression through policies that limit women's rights.

The oppression caused by gender construction, culture, religion and government led women to struggle to gain women's rights in which women want to be treated equally as human beings. Then, women struggled for women's emancipation and search for justice and equality. It marked by women's movement that had been going on for long periods, especially in the west country.

This movement known as feminism. The first modern feminism begins around the 17th and 18th centuries during the Age of Enlightenment in Europe. Toward the 19th and early 20th centuries, feminism becomes a movement that gets attention around the world including in Great Britain and United State of America. Syaldi (2015) argues that the women's movement in America in the 19th centuries associated with women's emancipation and the struggle to eliminate discrimination against women. Besides, there are women movement in Great Britain in the late 19th and early 20th centuries concerned with women's civil rights. (“The History of the Feminist Movement in Britain,” n.d.)

The women’s movement and women’s struggle to achieve justice and equal rights are shown in the movie *Suffragette* and *Iron Jawed Angels*. *Suffragette* is a movie directed by Sarah Gavron and written by Abi Morga. This movie tells about a group of working women who struggle to get the right to vote in Great Britain. The women’s struggle is led by Emmeline Pankhurst. The setting of the movie was in 1912, London. While *Iron Jawed Angels* is a movie directed by Katja von Garnier and written by Sally Robinson, Eugenia Bostwick Singer, Raymond Singer, and Jennifer Friedes. This movie tells about groups of women from different backgrounds who struggle to get the right to vote in the United State of America. The struggle is led by Alice Paul and Women National Party as one of an organization that brings the amendment.

Movies of *Suffragette* and *Iron Jawed Angels* are selected because there are similarities in the terms of issues raised in both movies namely women’s oppression in the political, law and social sphere and women’s struggle to gain equal rights in the political sphere by achieving the right to vote. But the women’s struggle to achieve women’s suffrage in both movies are carried out in different ways. In the movie *Suffragette*, the majority of women’s struggles are done in militant ways. While in the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*, women carried out their struggle in peaceful ways. These different ways caused by the different historical backgrounds of the United State and Great Britain. before the early 20th century, some states in the United State has granted women with suffrage. While

in Great Britain, all women have not had the right to vote before the early 20th century.

There are other similarities are both movies lifted from real history happened. The similarities in terms of characters are the main characters in both movies are women, there are wife of government figures participating in the movement, there are governments that do not immediately give a decision after hearing the women's testimonies about women's oppression. In terms of plot, there are some similarities in women's efforts to get women's suffrage.

Then, the theories used to analyze research topics namely women's oppression and women's struggle are theory of feminism and theory about oppression proposed by Iris Marion Young. Both topics also will be examined through the literary devices of plot and character. Furthermore, there are some reviews about the movie *Iron Jawed Angels* and *Suffragette*. One review about the movie *Iron Jawed Angels* written by Scott Foundas. Foundas (2004) said that :

“HBO's starry suffragette drama, "Iron Jawed Angels," latches on to a worthy historical subject and then hopes noble intentions will be enough to carry the day. Alas, there's no such luck in this talky, melodramatic overview of the dawn of equal rights for women in America”

Movie of *Iron Jawed Angels* tells about historical event in America in which women struggled to gain equal right with men. Equal right based on Yourdictionary is “the concept that every person is to be treated equally by the law”. The equal rights for women means equal treat by the law for women thus they will have equal chance and able to participate in every sphere regardless of gender construction. Another review made by John Leonard (2018). He said that :

“Iron Jawed Angels (Sunday, February 15; 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.; HBO) is more than a razzle-dazzle rendition of the suffrage movement that finally won American women the right to vote in 1920. It's a reminder that feminism is first of all about human rights.”

The equality right for women in America was obtained through amend of constitution relate to suffrage. Based on the Cambridge Dictionary, Suffrage is “the right to vote in an election, especially to vote for representatives in a

government". The right to vote for women in election have given big impact for their life and society. According to Wong (2018), women's suffrage corresponded with a significant increase in municipal spending on charities and hospitals, social programs, the decrease of children mortality as much as 15 percent. The other review was made by Alessandra Stanley (2004). He said that :

“ The scene, shown early in Sunday's HBO film "Iron Jawed Angels," is intended to disarm: early 20th-century feminists like Paul may have been zealots, but they were still feminine. Pretty, funny, sexually attracted to men and fond of shopping, the heroines of "Iron Jawed Angels" have been made over to suit today's ambivalent notions about the women's movement -- "Legally Blonde III: The Suffragette Years."

The movie *Iron Jawed Angels* display the women's movement in America in the early 20th century. Based on "Reading : The Women's Movement" (n.d), the women's movement or the feminism movement refers to "a series of political campaign for reforms on issues such as reproductive rights, domestic violence, maternity leave, equal pay, women's suffrage, sexual harrasment and sexual violence, all of which fall under the label of feminism and the feminist movement". Thus the aim of women's movement relate to women's struggle to eliminate many unjust aspects that curb their freedom. There are also movie reviews about *Suffragette*. Robbie Collin (2015) on "Telegraph" said that "Never mind the respectable cast and period costumes - Sarah Gavron's fiery film about the fight for women's suffrage is far from genteel".

While Angie Errigo (2015) said that "Suffragette blows the dust off history in an involving, women-driven drama with a political thriller element and thought-provoking contemporary relevance for men and women equally". The movie "Suffragette" depicts the struggle of women to gain suffrage in militant way in Britain. There are two kind of women's movement namely suffragette and suffragist. Myers (2013) argues that :

"Suffragist was the broader term reffering to supporters of suffrage for women, more spesifically the member of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), formed in 1897 and led for the majority by Millicent Garrett Fawcett. NUWSS aimed to achieve enfranchisement for women by peaceful and legal means, such as bringing petition and Bills to

parliament, and distributing literature for their Cause. . . . In 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst, frustrated at the lack of progress made in getting women the vote, along with her daughters Sylvia, Christabel and Adela, established the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), the members of which became known as the suffragettes . . . its aim were more militant, public, and illegal tactics”

Thus the distinguish type of women's movement based on their way to gain women's suffrage. Suffragist take their actions legally and campaign peacefully. While suffragette did their action in violence and militancy. Suffragist also referred to women and men. While suffragette is only referred to women.

The other review about the movie *Suffragette* written by A. O . Scotts (2015) on New York Times said that :

“Movies about the injustices of the past — and about the struggles to overcome them — are frequently prisoners of their own good intentions. Too often, attempts to illuminate the dark parts of history cast a complacent, flattering light on the present and turn history into a morality play or a horror show. The audience is invited to look back at how terrible things used to be and reflect on how much better they are now. The note of hard-won triumph that comes in the final scenes has the effect of tying up loose ends and suppressing uncomfortable continuities.”

The movie *Suffragette* brings the issue of women's oppression in the early 20th century. This oppression are vary. It can be found in the politic, economic, education and law sphere in which gender construction become a weapon to legalize inequality of rights. The of inequality right such as women were not allowed to vote, married women had no property rights, women were not allowed to work in medicine and law etc. the movie shows the struggle of women to get the suffrage is difficult and the suffragette struggle becomes the dark event of history.

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the research background, the researcher finds some problems to be analyzed in the movies *Suffragette* and *Iron Jawed Angels*. Those problems are the oppression of women, struggle of women, the similarities of oppression and

struggle of women from both movies. Moreover, based on the statement of problems, the researcher obtained some research questions such as :

1. How are the form of women's struggle to get their right that can help them to socialize in society in the movie *Suffragettes*?
2. How are the form of women's oppression in the movie *Suffragettes*?
3. How are the form of women's struggle to get their right that can help them to socialize in society in the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*?
4. How are the form of women's oppression in the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*?
5. How are similarities of women's struggle to get their right that can help them to socialize in society in the movie *Suffragettes* and *Iron Jawed Angels*?
6. How are similarities of women's oppression in the movie *Suffragettes* and *Iron Jawed Angels*?

C. Research Objective

To limit the scope of the study and a research focus could be narrowed. So the goal is achieved in this study are:

1. Describing the form of women's struggle to get their right that can help them to socialize in society in the movie *Suffragettes*
2. Describing the form of women's oppression in the movie *Suffragettes*
3. Describing the form of women's struggle to get their right that can help them to socialize in society in the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*
4. Describing the form of women's oppression in the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*
5. Describing similarities of women's struggle to get their right that can help them to socialize in society in the movie *Suffragettes* and *Iron Jawed Angels*

6. Describing similarities of women's oppression in the movie *Suffragettes* and *Iron Jawed Angels*

D. Research Significance

- a. Benefits theoretically
 - 1) This study is expected to provide information on the analysis of feminism and oppression in literature, especially the movie and movie script.
 - 2) This study is expected to provide benefits on how the application of feminist theory in analyzing the women's struggle and how the application of oppression theory in analyzing the women's oppression in the movie *Suffragettes* and *Iron Jawed Angels*
- b. Benefits in practice
 - 1) Can provide a reference and knowledge regarding the analysis of literary works that use theory of feminism and oppression
 - 2) Can provide insights about women's struggle and oppression contained in the movie *Suffragettes* and *Iron Jawed Angels*

E. Definition of Key Term

Definition of key term made to avoid misconception in conceiving the terms in this research. The terms are classified as follows as:

- a. Struggle : an activities by exerting energy, mind or body to achieve a purpose; work (action, initiative, endeavor, effort) to achieve something
- b. Oppression : the exercise of evil perpetrated by oppressing group to other people. The oppression creates disadvantage and injustice for oppressed or people in which they will suffer.
- c. Characters : people who become figure in a narrative work or drama. Characters have moral qualities and certain tendencies expressed through actions and words (Abrams as cited in Nurgiyantoro, 2013 : 247)

- d. Plot : the structure of several successive events and served to achieve the effect of certain artistic and emotion. The plot is presented in a story through the action of figures in form of verbal or non-verbal which is linear. The previous and next events do not always directly correlate logically based on causation (Abrams as cited in Nurgiyantoro, 2013 : 167-168)

F. Conceptual Framework

In this research, the researcher tries to explore the women struggle and women oppression in the movie *Suffragette* and *Iron Jawed Angels*. Research data used in this study obtained from the movies and the movie scripts *Suffragette* and *Iron Jawed Angels*. The female characters in both movies experienced oppression in their respective countries. The oppression experienced by women will be analyzed through literary device namely plot and character supported by theory of oppression by Marion Iris Young. To fight the oppression, the female characters in both movies also make some struggle. These women's struggle will be analyzed through literary device namely plot and character, supported by feminist theory. The similarities of the two movies will be analyzed using a comparative literary study comparing the literature in the form of movie from two different cultures and countries namely Britain and America. The women's struggle and oppression in both movies relates to the social and historical context that exists in Britain and America. The historical context contained in the movie *Suffragette* is the presence of Emmeline Pankhurst and the existence of a suffragette group from the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) organization, while the historical context in *the Iron Jawed Angels* movie there is the figure of Alice Paul, the National Woman's Party and the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

G. Previous Study

The previous study relate to women struggle is thesis entitle “Struggle Of Woman In The Novel Sing Me To Sleep By Angela Morrison (The Analysis Of Feminism)” that researched by Eka Erli Sudarni (2017). Theory that used in this reasearch is feminism theory. This theory was chosen to analysis the main character, Beth Evans as a woman that marginalized in her social school life bacause she has an ugly face. In the other side, Beth has beautiful voice that can make her to be recognized among the social as other friends. The result of the reasearch about Struggle of woman in the novel “Sing Me to Sleep” relate to the research objective such as the kind of woman’s struggle face by the main character are 1) the struggle in accepting the realities of life (2) the struggle to achieve a dream (3) the struggle for affection. The most prominent struggle face by Beth is the struggle to achieve a dream for so many hurdles and obstacles that continue its path she was able to survive with the people she loves.

The contribution of research in academic field is to help the student have comprehensive understanding about women struggle especially in the novel “Sing Me to Sleep”. The difference ‘of this research and research of “Woman’s Oppression and Struggle in the movie “Iron Jawed Angels’ and’ Suffragette”” are the form of woman struggle and the additional topic. The form woman struggle in the novel “Sing Me to Sleep” is Woman struggle to achieve equal right like other people in social life despite the physical condition of the main character. While the women struggle in fil “Iron Jawed Angels” and “Suffragette” are struggle to achieve right in political, laws and economic fields. In the reasearch done by Eka Erli Sudarni, the topic is only woman struggle. While the research toward the movie of “Iron Jawed Angels” and “Suffragette” analysis the woman’s struggle and oppression

The previous study about women oppression is such as “Oppression on Women in Alice Walker’s The Color Purple : A feminist Study” that analysis by Putri Ekarini Gadi Pangestu (2016). The object analyzed in the research is novel “The Color Purple” written by Alice Walker. Theory used to analyze is feminism

theory by Frye and Simone de Beauvoir. The result of research are oppression of women can be seen in the three character of novel namely Celie, Sofie and Celie's mother. The oppression that faced by Celie is physical and sexual abuse. She has passive character and an uneducated woman. The oppression faced by Sofie is physical abuse from her family and husband. But Sofie has honest and brave character. Thus she is an independent woman in pathriarchal society. While the oppression faced by Celie's mother is mentally and physically ill, sexual abuse that done by her second husband. Celie's mother is potrait of ideal wives that take care of family and house. But she is also kind of woman that depend of men.

The contribution of this research in academic field is give comprehensive understanding about woman oppression especially in the novel of "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker. The difference of this research and analysis of woman oppression in the movie "Iron Jawed Angels" and "Suffragette" are the form of woman oppression. The oppression faced by women's character in "The Color Purple" such as sexually and physically abuse, social oppression that see woman as depending gender.

The other previous study about woman's struggle is "Catherine's Struggle to be Free From Oppression in Ernest Hemingway's 'A Farewell to Arms'" that done by Muhammad Wizari Yusuf (2016). The theory used to analyze the novel is feminism theory. The research findings realate to the research objective such as : 1) the form of woman oppression faced by main character namely Catherine are violence, psychological violence, powerlessness; 2) the woman struggle to overcome the oppression are try to find roomates valued a woman and her presence is needed for many people, try to lie to the public that she was married and had children. It was done so people didn't expect her as a figtive. The difference between research done by Muhammad Wizari Yusuf and this research proposal are the form of woman's struggle and oppression. The difference of thi s previous study and this research proposal are the form of woman oppression and struggle. The oppression faced by women's character in "A Farewell to Arms " has relate more to the psychological aspect of the character. And the struggle is to achieve social recognition

The previous study about oppression is essay entitled “Five Faces of Oppression” by Iris Marion Young. Young argues that there are five types of oppression such as exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, violence and cultural imperialism. Exploitation is the act of using people’s labors capability to produce profit while not compensating them fairly. While marginalization is the act of relegating or confining a group of people to lower social standing or outer limit or edge of society. While Powerlessness links to Marx’s theory about socialism that the society consist of “have” power and other “have not”. The powerless are dominated by rulling class and are situated to take orders and rarely have right to give them. Then culture imperialism relates to the culture of rulling class that established as the norm. The group that has power in society interoret and communicate. And violence is most obvious and visible form of oppression where the members of some groups live with the knowledge that they must fear rancom, unprovoked attacks on their persons or property.

