

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains an introduction that explains the initial part of the background of this research. This chapter consists of *Research Background*, *Statement of Problem*, *Research Objectives*, *Research Significances*, *Previous Studies*, and *Definition of Key Terms*.

### **1.1. Research Background**

According to the thoughts of Wahyudi (2018) the change of the era has led literature to new findings that allow people to find new definitions. If in the past time technology that created literary works was the printing press, now the expression of literary works can be realized in the form of film. Film involves visual, verbal, gestural and social literacy concepts. As a medium of expression created to be shown, film has the same characteristics as those found in drama, the difference is on the medium of expression, that drama is shown in the theater while film is shown electronically. Film has a literal definition as meaning like the term cinematography which is a combination of the words cinema, *tho*, (light) and *graph* (writing) which is then interpreted as painting motion with light. Historically, the invention of the Camera Obscura in the mid-12th century was the first step in introducing visual recording media as a new invention. The development of film technology has progressed rapidly over time. Films that were originally only black and white, silent, and very fast-paced have now developed closer to reality. By incorporating audio techniques, the dramatic effects of films are increasingly well-visualized.

As a medium that has been easily accessed by the public, films can be a medium to convey important issues from the author to the public. Film is a medium as a means of conveying messages and ideas from author related to social problems in life. Authors usually use films as a medium to express their thoughts on problems in society. Films can even be a medium to show the author's side in responding to a problem that is related to social life. Many problems can be raised in a film, which has the aim of spreading mandate or awareness to the public. Social issues are often the center of attention in a film because they provide a deep reflection of the

existing social reality. The authors often raise issues such as injustice, economic inequality, corrupt politics, war, discrimination, and social alienation. Through their narratives and characters, filmmakers are able to portray the impact of these issues on individuals and society in a deeper way. In addition, films often address social issues related to identity, such as gender, sexuality, and social class. Authors often use literature as a medium to explore the complexity of human identity and how it affects their social interactions and life experiences. Through diverse characters, the audience can see reflections of the various social realities around them, and gain a deeper understanding of human complexity.

One of the topics taken from deep-rooted issues in society is feminism. The issue of feminism regarding to patriarchal culture has taken root in human life. Patriarchal culture is an integral part of society because it has existed for centuries and is passed down from generation to generation. Economic structures and policies that support gender discrimination can also reinforce patriarchal culture. Patriarchy tends to place women as responsible for work inside the home, and men as responsible for activities or work outside the home. The social norms inherent in these societies often emphasize traditional gender roles, where men are expected to be leaders and defenders of the family, while women are expected to be obedient and loving homemakers. In reality, patriarchal culture has shaped how social expectations construct how women should behave in society. Women are required to be obedient to their husbands, able to take care of things inside the house, and uphold social beauty standards. Meanwhile, the stereotypes of women that develop in this society have a negative impact on women such as causing difficulties in fulfilling women's basic rights, and lack of access to means of women's self-development. Along with the times, feminist values are also incorporated into films. Women are used as the main characters in a film, which means that women have a variety of images to represent. The representation of women in a film reflects women based on their position and problems in society at the times the literary work is created.

Women face various forms of inequality and discrimination that permeate almost every aspect of their lives. Meanwhile, freedom should be an absolute right

that every individual has and should not be limited by any gender identity. Social and cultural norms that support rigid gender roles result in a patriarchal culture that has developed over centuries. Patriarchal culture is a phenomenon where power is unequal in various certain aspects in society between women and men. Men dominance in a patriarchal culture creates a social construction that women are weak parties who are easily hurt (Sakina & Hasanah, 2014). This creates gender stereotypes and social expectations about how men and women should behave that can produce structures that support men dominance. Patriarchal culture forms gender norms in the household, where activities inside the house, such as cleaning the house, are handled by women, and activities outside the house, such as working, are handled by men. As believed by Setyorini (2017) gender norms create a division of labor between men and women based on their biological functions. Gender norms was emerged along with patriarchal culture which to this day we use as a reference and culture in carrying out daily activities. Patriarchy can create problems for women because it gives men dominance, control and power, while relegating women to more limited and sometimes harmful roles. Patriarchy often results in inequalities in access and opportunities for women. For example, women may have limited access to education, employment, healthcare and other resources. Patriarchal cultures often reinforce norms that suggest women are objects that can be treated as they please. This can lead to increased cases of domestic violence, sexual harassment and other gender discrimination. In patriarchal cultures, women are often not fully recognized or valued for their potential, talents and abilities. Gender stereotypes can limit women's career choices, aspirations and personal development.

This patriarchal culture implemented in society limits the rights that women should obtain for their own progress. Women are considered live to dedicate themselves for their husband and family. This creates a stereotype that women should not have a high education because in the end they will live to take care of the family and not to work to earn money. Therefore, only men get the opportunity to develop themselves out there. Patriarchal culture is shown by the dominance of men over women in various sectors of society, men have control over women's

lives, patriarchy divides gender roles, men as leaders and women as house workers, limited access to education, work and politics as well is a form of patriarchy. Patriarchal patterns that are continuously applied in everyday culture increase women's awareness of fulfilling their rights and obligations. So, feminism emerged as a response to patriarchy which has become a culture. On the report of Abbas (2020), the feminist movement departs from the reality of oppression of women, that there is inequality in human civilization in the position of women and efforts must be made to create equality between the female and male genders.

In an effort to equalize the position of women in society, the feminist movement was continuously promoted. Therefore, women began to realize all the negative impacts of this patriarchal culture and responded to patriarchy in the form of resistance in the form of a feminist movement that has the aim of creating equality between women and men. On the word of Suwastini (2013), feminist movement divided into three waves, the first era of feminism emerged in the 18th centuries which focused on fighting for women's basic rights such as political rights, educational rights, and increasing women's access to the public world. The second era of feminism emerged in the 1960s which focused on the struggle for social and cultural equality. This era's feminism explored issues such as work, abortion, reproductive rights, and gender roles in order to eliminate gender stereotypes. The third era of feminism developed from the 1980s to the present, where its focus became broader and tried to overcome the complex concepts of gender identity, sexuality and intersectionality.

One of the example of feminist issue that is portrayed in a film is *Why Women Kill*, a television series created by Marc Cherry (2019). The researcher would conduct an analysis of the television series *Why Women Kill* (2019) and focus on the issue feminism regarding to resistance of patriarchal culture. *Why Women Kill* is a television series by Marc Cherry under *Paramount Pictures* production house that consist of 2 seasons, season 1 that was released on 2019 would be the main focus of this research. As a television series, *Why Women Kill* received a lot of appreciation from the audience. Appreciation for *Why Women Kill* is not only for the script itself but also for the aspects involved in it such as character make-up,

hairstylist, color grading, and character costumes. *Why Women Kill* was also nominated for several awards, one of which was *Golden Trailer Awards 2021* for *Best Comedy/Drama Trailer for a TV/Streaming Series*. As retrieved from *Internet Movie Database (IMDB)* over 30.000 people rated 8.3/10 for *Why Women Kill* Series, which is categorized as high-rated for a television series. The series *Why Women Kill* focuses on feminist-patriarchal issues. From this series, audience can think about the feminism issues related to how women resist to the patriarchal culture in the film. The researcher used *Why Women Kill* Season 1, which was released in 2019 and has 10 episodes. The titles of 10 episodes that would be analyzed by the researcher are as follows.

1. *"Murder Means Never Having to Say You're Sorry"*;
2. *"I'd Like to Kill Ya, But I Just Washed my Hair"*;
3. *"I Killed Everyone He Did, But Backwards and in High Heels"*;
4. *"You Had Me at Homicide"*;
5. *"There's No Crying in Murder"*;
6. *"Practically Lethal in Every Way"*;
7. *"I Found Out What the Secret to Murder is: Friends. Best Friends"*;
8. *"Marriages Don't Break Up on Account of Murder - It's Just a Symptom That Something Else Is Wrong"*;
9. *"I Was Just Wondering What Makes Dames Like You So Deadly"*;
- and
10. *"Kill Me as If It Were the Last Time"*.

In conclusion, a literary work is formed from the author's view of the problems around society. *Why Women Kill* reflects how patriarchal culture is so thick and exists in every aspect of people's lives. By analyzing the resistance to patriarchal culture, it will refute society's stereotype of women who are only seen as weak and men-devoted parties.

## **1.2.Statement of Problem**

This research examined the way patriarchal culture depicted and created norm that is applied in daily life of society. This research also examined the way

female characters on *Why Women Kill* (2019) resist the patriarchal culture around them.

From the background in this research above, the researcher concluded that there are two questions that would be the main focuses of this research, as follows.

1. How is patriarchal culture depicted in *Why Women Kill* (2019)?
2. How do the female characters resist to patriarchal culture in *Why Women Kill* (2019)?

### **1.3. Research Objectives**

Based on the formulation on statement of the problem, this research has the following objectives.

1. To find out how patriarchal culture depicted in *Why Women Kill* (2019).
2. To find out how the female characters resist to patriarchal culture in *Why Women Kill* (2019).

### **1.4. Research Significances**

This research is intended to provide use to the readers especially to engaged in examining the theory of feminism regarding patriarchal culture. By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that this research would be theoretically and practically useful.

1. Theoretically

This research is intended to bring theoretical benefits to the world of academic writing. This research can be a source for improvising similar research in the future, especially regarding feminism, patriarchal culture, and women depicted in the television series *Why Women Kill* (2019).

2. Practically

This research is intended to open a new perspective regarding knowledge of feminist studies, the differences in the application of patriarchal culture in the past and present eras and how the female characters resist to it.

### **1.5. Previous Studies**

Previous study is research that has been conducted previously by previous researcher, either by the same researcher or by different individuals. Previous studies are related to the same topic or object from the previous research and the



research that would be analyzed by the researcher. Previous studies have an important position in a research because previous studies provide knowledge that can be used to build new research, which can be in the form of methodologies, objects, or conclusions from the findings that have been achieved by previous researchers. In order to facilitate and provide an overview of the topics and theories used in this study, the researcher has studied previous research which has similar study objects and study theories with this research. Previous study provides an overview of previously conducted research and show how the topic has been researched and provide theoretical support for the arguments or hypotheses proposed in the new study.

The first research is a journal entitled *On American Feminist Movement based on Why Women Kill* (Zhang, 2020). This study analyzed the history of the women's rights movement in the United States from the perspective of *Why Women Kill*. The data taken are based on the storyline or narrative of the three characters and different eras so as to know the reflection of the personality of American women at different eras from a feminist perspective. The conclusion obtained from this research is that this journal reveals the predicament of women in the path of equal rights in a practical sense. The ups and downs of the feminist movement during this period provided us with an opportunity to understand American women and American society at a deeper level. According to him, case studies regarding the American women's movement can be an inspiration for local women's issues. This journal has similarities with the research that would be studied by the researcher, it is the similarity of objects as research material, the television series *Why Women Kill*. From the discussion of this journal regarding the feminist movement in America as reflected in the *Why Women Kill* television series, it is concluded that the feminist movement in the United States is quite remarkable in the world. The *Why Women Kill* television series discusses the feminist movement from time to time in accordance with the time setting of this film, which is quite reflective of feminism at large, one of which is the depiction of powerful women, even women of any race are portrayed as equally strong.

The second research is a journal entitled *Conversation Analysis of Conflict Talk between Couples in Why Women Kill* (Xie, 2022). This study analyzes the conflict talk, which shows the speaker's identity, status, the social era in which they live, and ethnicity all contribute to the choice of turn-taking. The data used in this research are dialogue narratives from couples in the storyline of the television series *Why Women Kill* which are used to gain knowledge of everyday life to understand the behavior of the communicator in the analyzed conversation session, and then to account for the everyday rationality used by the communicator, the time, place and gender where the conversation takes place also influence the occurrence of conflict in the conversation. It is found that the speaker's gender, status, position, the social era in which they live, personality, and ethnicity all influence the choice of the turn taking. Among them, status and position are the most important factors, and they are symbols of power in society. Similarly in the family, the party that has a higher status position enjoys the dominant power in the conversation and shapes the image of the dominant one, while the party in a subordinate position is prone to being in a weak position in the conflict and obeys the instructions of the strong one. This journal has similarities with the research that will be studied by the researcher, it is the similarity of objects, *Why Women Kill* television series as a study material. The analysis of conversations in the *Why Women Kill* television series can be concluded that there is a patriarchy existed that influences someone to be the dominant party in a conversation. In addition, status and position also influence the dominance of a conversation in that television series.

The third research is a journal entitled *The Image of Women in Dangdut Songs: Analysis of Feminism in Popular Culture* (Ash-shidiqy, 2016). This study analyzes the image of women depicted in popular culture that is appears in dangdut songs and how patriarchal culture shapes the image of women. This research uses a feminist approach. The data taken are based on narratives from popular dangdut songs. The results of this research found that there were six images of women in popular dangdut culture, they are the image of women as suffering wives, the image of women as dangdut singers, the image of women as materialistic women, the image of women as innocent girls, the image of women as other dream women, and



the image of women as career women. The similarity found in this third journal is the similarity in the topic of study, feminism. Feminism is also be the topic of this research that is studied by the researcher. According to this journal, women be the object of study to be studied in popular culture, which in this case is women portrayed in dangdut songs. This suggests that the industrialized society has an interest in the portrayal of women, hence the study of women in popular culture. This could also be due to the fact that the issues of women portrayed in popular culture relate to women's issues that actually occur in society. Patriarchal culture also contributes in shaping the portrayal of women in dangdut songs as the object of analysis. In conclusion, it can be concluded that the portrayal of women in dangdut songs is that of women as the weak party, and the party to satisfy men's lust.

The fourth research is a journal entitled *Palembang-Malay Women's Resistance against the Domination of Patriarchal Culture in the XX Century* (Rochmiatun, 2023). This journal article focuses on the resistance of Palembang-Malay women against patriarchal culture in the 20th century. During the colonial period, women faced limited opportunities to participate in the public sphere, particularly in terms of education. The research examines how Palembang women fought for emancipation and the forms of resistance they took. It also explores the public sectors they were able to achieve. The research highlights the struggle of Palembang women in advocating for their rights in the public sphere through mass media, despite facing numerous obstacles. The article also discusses the lack of importance given to women's education in Palembang during that time. It examines the role of mass media, specifically newspapers, in elevating the spirits of Malay women and spreading knowledge to them. The research shows that Palembang women voiced their aspirations and desires for education through letters published in newspapers. It also explores the resistance of Palembang women through literature, particularly poetry, as a means of conveying their aspirations. Overall, the study demonstrates the gradual elimination of patriarchal culture through the struggle for emancipation by Palembang women, emphasizing the importance of their access to education and their fight for gender equality. In this fourth journal,

the similarity between this journal and the researcher's research is feminism related to resistance to the patriarchal culture. In this journal, resistance to patriarchal culture is carried out by Palembang women. They experience limited opportunities in the public sphere so they have to fight harder to get their rights. Palembang women voiced their aspirations and desire for education through letters published in newspapers. Thus, the role of mass media, especially newspapers, was instrumental in boosting the spirit of Malay women and disseminating knowledge to them.

The fifth research is a thesis entitled *Liberal feminism in a Vindication of The Rights of Woman by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792)* (Sugiono, 2023). This research concludes that the book of Wollstonecraft promotes liberal feminism and advocates for gender equality. It challenges traditional gender norms and emphasises the importance of education and equal access to knowledge for women. It rejects the objectification and trivialisation of women and opposes women being subject to the whims of men. It calls for the emancipation of women from traditional gender roles and societal expectations, highlighting that true progress can only be achieved through reason and intelligence. The book criticises the social elevation of women through their perceived inferiority, as this perpetuates exploitation and prevents true equality. The chapter encourages researcher to consider intersectionality in understanding Wollstonecraft's feminism, recognising how gender intersects with other social categories. It also suggests conducting a comparative analysis of Wollstonecraft's views with modern feminist theories to trace the evolution of feminist thought over time. This fifth study is a thesis that has similarities with the research being studied by the researcher, it is similarities in the form of a study of feminism from the feminist thinker Mary Wollstonecraft. The work of Mary Wollstonecraft that is studied as the object of study in this thesis is one of Mary Wollstonecraft's famous feminist books, a book entitled *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman*. This book was published in 1792. The publication of this book was based on Wollstonecraft's thoughts on her views on women's issues around her. In essence, this thesis summarizes liberal feminism in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* as a strong call for gender equality, women's access to education, and the development

of women's intelligence. The influence of liberal feminism in this thesis is to challenge traditional patriarchal norms, and urge society to do so recognizing women as rational beings who have the same rights and potential for growth and contribution as men. Wollstonecraft's work remains an important milestone in the world of feminist literature, paving the way for future generations of feminists to continue their efforts to achieve gender equality and empowerment for women.

### **1.6. Definition of Key Terms**

Key terms are important words or phrases that summarize the essence of the research topic. Key terms are words that we often encounter in research, the core concepts that define the scope of the research.

There are some key terms used in this research. The definition of key terms explained as follows.

1. **Female Characters:** A character in a story or film represented by a woman whose role in shaping and influencing the plot of the film to explore various social, emotional, and psychological issues, and provide a new perspective or enrich the story.
2. **Feminism:** A social and political movement that focuses on women's rights and equality, that is to balance the influence and power between the sexes by emphasizing the social, economic, and political roles of women that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men.
3. **Film:** A collection of images projected in sequence to create a moving visual effect, often used to tell a story or drama, which can also be an audiovisual recording produced and shown in a film theater.
4. **Patriarchy:** A social system in which men have primary and dominating power in political leadership roles, moral authority, social rights, and control of property and infuse governance with male privilege and subordinate women's position to men, this dominance covers personal and broad domains such as political participation, education, economic, social, legal, and others.

5. Television Series: A show that has an independent story and have an ongoing story that unfolds sequentially in the form of episodes, where the plot follows a main storyline that spans an entire television season.
6. *Why Women Kill* (2019) Television Series: An American dark comedy-drama anthology television series created by Marc Cherry, *Why Women Kill* that is analyzed in this research is the first season that is released in 2019.

