

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Feminism issue is a case that still can not be solved and is still often discussed in many aspects, for example in literature. Feminism has changed literature's academic study, essentially changing the norm of what is instructed and construct new schemes for literary analysis. Literature used to deliver certain thoughts or embrace a new perspective that can be analyzed. For instance, in the novel there are many sensitive issues included feminist issue triggered the conflict in the plot, characters, as well as setting. Those issues can be analyzed when it actually planted purposely in the literary work, therefore the reader can embrace and run up to the implicit meaning of it or discover the issue inside of the novel based on each point of view. Another form of literature is movie. Movie is one of the popular cultures and the modern art works that provides a new direction to literary studies, because popular culture examining literature as a particular culture practices. (Culler, 1997) .

Movie has the elements which also exist in other forms of literary work, such character, characterization, plot, as well as setting. Hence, it also will contain the issues from many aspects that can be analyzed. One of the issues that often analyzed by many people is feminism. Feminism can be explained as a movement that aims to search and gain the quality of women's lives by opposing the society's norms based

on male dominance and ensuing woman who signifies the emancipation of women from the chains, limitations, norms and customs of society. ya

There are some movies that describe women movement or feminism issues. A biographical sports movie entitled *Battle of The Sexes* (2017) which is directed by Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton and written by Simon Beaufoy. The movie tells about the tennis players, Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs, starring Emma Stone and Steve Carell. Billie Jean King, tennis player woman, who threaten Jack Kramer to start women tennis tournament because Kramer has organized a tennis tournament where the prize for men is eight times higher than women's prize even though they sell the same amount of tickets, on the ground of women's tennis player inferiority. When Billie Jean King and the nine other professional tennis players sign on as women tennis tournament group named as Virginia Slim Circuit, Kramer bans them for the tournaments organized by the United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA). In the beginning days of their struggle in their tournament, Billie Jean King has an affair with her hairdresser, Marilyn Barnett, threatening her marriage with Larry King and distracts Billie Jean King from the tournament and makes her lose the game against Margaret Court. Meanwhile, Bobby Riggs' addiction to gambling brings him in trouble in his marriage with Pricillia Riggs who thrown him out of their house after Riggs won a Roll-Royce from a tennis bet. At the end, Riggs decided to have a challenge match against the top woman player to prove that he can beat any woman even though he is 55. He oftentimes offers Billie Jean King to accept his challenge, but she always refuses it. Eventually, he persuades Margaret Court,

who overtook the position of Billie Jean King as the world number 1 ranking, to play a match with him. Riggs easily defeats Margaret Court and Billie Jean King decides to accept his challenge and demands equality for women tennis player if she wins. King trains intensely, while Riggs relaxes because he thinks he will defeat Billie Jean King. In the end, Billie Jean King wins the match.

Based on the short summary of movie, it tells about the women liberation or women movement. Liberal feminism is a feminist's movement which focuses on the freedom of an individual and it focuses on the equality between men and women, the same opportunity in politics and education. As stated by Wendell:

Liberal feminism's clearest political commitments: to the promotion of women's greater recognition and self-value as individuals, to equality of opportunity, to the promotion of equal education for girls boy, to ending sex prejudice and de facto discrimination, to equality of legal rights, and to the use of education as a major tool of social reform (Wendell, 1987)

It also stated that liberal feminist wants to end the discrimination. In this case, discrimination happens in society where women are inferior and men are superior. As seen in through the main character of *Battle of Sexes* (2017), Billie Jean King, who wants to end Kramer and society's perspective toward women tennis player who think that the tennis match of men is more interesting to watch because men are superior, stronger and more competitive, and men deserve more prize because they become the breadwinner who have to support their family.

The writer prefers to choose this movie to be analyzed because of some reasons: first, the story of the movie tells about the life of Billie Jean King, who is an American

former World No. 1 professional tennis player. Billie Jean is also an advocate for gender equality and has long been a pioneer for equality and social justice. The second is, this movie can inspire woman and show that women also have power and strong as men if they have chance and opportunity. Therefore, the writer wants to analyze the movie through Cinematography Approach by using Liberal Feminism Theory.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the research question:

1. What are Billie Jean King's characteristics in *Battle of The Sexes* movie?
2. How does the female main character depict the liberal feminism values in *Battle of The Sexes* movie?

1.3 Research Objective

1. To reveal the characteristics of Billie Jean King in *Battle of The Sexes* movie?
2. To disclose the depiction of liberal feminism values as seen in the female main character of *Battle of The Sexes* movie through her characteristics.

1.4 Uses of The Study

The study is expected to give benefits as follows:

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

The writer wishes that this study can give a new information and knowledge, especially the literary study about liberal feminism on *Battle of The Sexes* movie or

for the one who wants to analyze other literary works by using liberal feminist theory.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

This study is wished to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer, generally for other students of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia and also can be used as the reference by other university students who are interested in literary study on literary work based on a liberal feminist theory.

1.5 Scope of The Study

In order to answer the formulated problems appropriately, the writer needs to emphasize scope. The study focuses on analyzing the characteristics of the main female character and the depiction of liberal feminism values which is reflected in *Battle of The Sexes* movie (2017) through the main character based on liberal feminist theory.