

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

According to Marcus & Sollar (2009), literary refers to what is written and spoken, expressed, and invented in whatever form. Tirtaningtias & Setiawan (2021) said that literary work depicts the conditions or situations related to human life, and literary work is imaginative. So that through literature, someone can deliver their imagination, emotion, or opinion to society. Efrilia & Setiawan (2020) stated that the main purpose of literary work is to entertain and educate the readers, which means that the readers learn something from fiction. In the birth process of a literary work, there is an interrelationship between the creation of literature and the phenomena of people's lives. According to Ima (2013), literature is a medium through which people can express their ideas or protest against various social norms. It means that literary work is a reflection of society itself, and reading the social life of society in literary works is common. Literary work has several types, one type of literary work is a movie that studies popular literature.

Victor Neuburg says that the development of popular literature in England in the 19th century defines popular literature as what the unsophisticated reader has chosen for pleasure. Therefore, according to him, this literature is the reading by ordinary readers for entertainment. According to Mahendra and Amelia (2020), popular literature differs from high or classic literature because popular literature uses a common language in society. Meanwhile, high literature uses more

sophisticated words, and popular literature is created only for entertainment, but high literature is created to improve the readers intellectually. However, popular literature also contains information and knowledge and can contain social aspects. So that popular literature can be used as a means of fostering reading habits. It can be concluded that popular literature is literature that is accepted by many people and then consumed by society, as seen through the sales amount that is generally temporary. According to Darma (2004), one of the characteristics of popular literature is a character who is handsome, rich, loved, admired, and able to easily overcome all kinds of problems. So this is what makes popular literature included in works of fiction because the perfection created in popular literature is presented only for entertainment and is fiction.

In the current context, the term "fiction" is used to refer to both novels and movies (Maheboob, 2018). According to Hornby (2006), a movie is a series of moving pictures that are recorded with sound and tell a story, shown in a cinema or film. Films always record the reality that grows and develops in society and then project it onto the screen (Sobur, 2004). This opinion states that films have the potential as a means to communicate with the public by influencing their views on things based on social realities that occur as part of the learning process. One of the movies whose story is based on social reality is *Last Night In Soho* movie. The problem or conflict in this movie is relevant to social life, that is, women's exploitation.

Exploitation is an unfair treatment of a person or group of people to get a benefit from their work because of their lower position (Dowding, 2019). One of the

forms of exploitation is women's exploitation. Women are not only used by their images and signs as an attraction but also commoditized and placed as objects to satisfy men's sexual needs for profit (Arladin & Sutinah, 2019). This means that women's exploitation generally occurs because of gender inequality. Even women are often mistreated and belittled; even in some countries, women do not deserve to live. It can be seen that in almost every city, various night businesses provide women's services. For example, as stated by The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Republic Indonesia (Kemen PPPA) on liputan6.com, from January to June 2020, there were 50 cases of sexual exploitation of adult women and 60 children who were victims of trafficking in persons for online sexual exploitation. In Beauvoir's book *The Second Sex*, she discusses the treatment received by women throughout history. She also mentioned that the women in that era were not worthy of being called human; women were pictured as other creature that was not the same as men. Beauvoir (2011) stated that becoming a woman is not how a person is born; something that happens. The problem discussed in this study is one of the issues that often arise in the case of feminism, namely the women's exploitation depicted in the *Last Night In Soho* movie.

Last Night In Soho is a movie directed by Edgar Wright, the genre of psychological and thriller movie about a teenage girl named Eloise Turner, or Ellie, who comes from Redruth, a small village in England. Ellie loves music and the mode of the 1960s era and aspires to be a fashion designer. Ellie needs to move to London because she was accepted as a fashion design student at the London College of Fashion. However, Ellie felt like she did not fit in with her

dorm roommates and chose to move to a boarding house owned by Ms. Collins. Since she first occupied her new place, Ellie began to dream of Sandie Collins, a talented and beautiful singer in the 1960s London era. However, Ellie realizes that Sandie's life is not as glamorous as it seems. The past and present begin to fall apart with dire consequences. Sandie's dream of becoming a star becomes a nightmare when her manager, Jack, forces her to become a sex worker. Jack, who was believed to be her manager, sold her to rich and famous men with the excuse that Sandie could achieve her dream. Jack forces Sandie to satisfy their lust. This is one of the cases of sexual exploitation that occurs against women. At the end of the story, there is a fantastic plot twist that answers all the things contained in the previous scene.

Last Night In Soho movie is presenting a story that contains feminist issues that can be seen through the women's exploitation experienced by Sandie and some other women characters in the movie. Women's exploitation happened under male control. Sandie was exploited by being coerced and tricked by Jack, who sold Sandie to several rich and famous men to fulfill their sexual desires with the excuse that Sandie could quickly achieve her dream of becoming a famous singer. The problem of women's exploitation is a kind of global problem that is still common in society. These are the references for this research to analyze the inner conflict experienced by the main characters in the *Last Night In Soho* movie using a feminist approach.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the description above, the research question of this paper is: How is the depiction of women's exploitation in the *Last Night In Soho* movie?

1.3 Research Objective

According to the research question above, this research aims to describe the women's exploitation in the *Last Night In Soho* movie.

1.4 The Use of the Study

The primary purpose of this research is to give information that can be implied in society and also give knowledge to the community. This research is expected to provide benefits both theoretically and practically.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

This research is expected to develop science related to the study of literary works, namely the analysis of literary works by using the feminist approach to reveal the women's exploitation as seen through some female characters in *Last Night In Soho* movie and also to add insight into the literary world.

1.4.2 Practical Use

The results of this study are expected to significantly contribute to readers and increase public knowledge about the dangers of women's exploitation. Also, this research can be used as material for comparison with other studies that have existed before, especially in analyzing the *Last Night In Soho* movie.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In accordance with the problems and objectives of this research, the scope of this research is limited to the depiction of women's exploitation in the *Last Night In Soho* movie. The researcher uses a feminist approach to reveal the women's exploitation depicted in some female characters in *Last Night In Soho* movie and uses the theory of representation by Hall, semiotics film theory by Metz, and women exploitation theory.