

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Feminist is someone who believes in challenging and addressing gender-based discrimination and promoting social, political, and economic justice for all. Feminism is an encompassing social, political, and cultural initiative aimed at advancing women's rights, achieving equality, and fostering the empowerment of women. (Madsen, 2000; Tong, 2009). The history of feminism can be traced back to the 19th century, when women began to organize and demand greater rights and opportunities. Feminism serves as an avenue to pursue equal rights and responsibilities for women in society. It empowers women to embody strong, positive roles and uphold feminist values. Additionally, feminism functions as a tool for critiquing literary works, enabling the analysis of literature from a woman's perspective.

Literature is a creative activity that is used to express and convey human emotions. Humans are social creatures, and as a result, there are many stories and sources of inspiration available, including works of literature such as novels, poetry, and other forms of expression (Fithratullah & Kasih, 2018). Literary work is a place of art where literary works display beauty (Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021). Literature also the art of language. A language or tradition and human traditions are represented through literary works (Mahsyur, Fithratullah, Kasih, 2023).

Talking about literature, movies are also a part of literature. Movies and popular literature share a strong connection. Additionally, films can also be intertwined with

personal memories. (Fithtratullah & Kasih, 2018). The film is a picture of an idea that is displayed into a moving image and displays a social phenomenon of multiple interpretations (Sikov, 2022).

One of movies focusing on some issues in literature is *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. The film focuses on the narrative of Shang's sister who had been separated for a significant duration Xialing who feels cheated of the attention. Collaborating to thwart their father Wenwu's scheme of releasing an age-old darkness upon the world, the audience gradually understands that Xialing's path is conceivably even more captivating, not to mention more demanding than Shang's. Even though Shang was bestowed with the benefits of structured training and paternal focus during his upbringing, he ultimately took shelter in the United States and assumed the role of a valet. In contrast, Xialing independently achieved everything, from mastering her combat skills to displaying her leadership and entrepreneurial talents. Finally, this film presents a female character with her struggle, namely the character Xialing. For this reason, it is important to present a feminist discussion. The female characters portrayed in the *Shang-Chi* are multidimensional, empowered, and independent, and they are challenging traditional gender stereotypes, and they have their own goals, motivations, and story arcs that go beyond, this can be used in the context of literature to connect between feminist and literature.

Feminism characterizes a society in which women experience distinct treatment compared to men. This divergence in treatment places women at a disadvantage.

Feminism asserts that this treatment is a result of cultural factors and can be altered, rather than being an inherent and unchangeable aspect of the world. Feminism envisions an alternative culture as achievable and values progress towards that culture. It also involves both individual and collective activism aimed at affecting personal and societal changes in pursuit of this more favorable culture.

Beasley (1999, p. 27), stated that *“I adopt a general definition of feminism as a perspective that seeks to eliminate the subordination, oppression, inequalities and injustices women suffer because of their sex.”* It means some people think that women have become objects of negative behavior. In essence, all individuals are inherently equal in society. Yet, in numerous societies, there exists a perception of men's superiority over women, granting men the privilege of controlling women. Consequently, women find themselves lacking control over their own lives and obliged to unquestioningly comply with men's directives, without the ability to refuse such commands.

McQuail (2010) states that feminist criticism raises two key issues, first can media created for women's entertainment foster a feeling of liberation while embodying patriarchal norms? and how do these texts manage the interplay between liberation and patriarchal realities? Recent research on *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* film have been made focusing on Chinese culture (Damayanti, Wardhani, & Aditya, 2022), Chinese myth and religion using semiotics theories (Refangga & Triwedawati, 2020), Illocutionary Acts (Amalia & Adlina, 2022) and Chinese family communication patterns (Emmanuela, Yoanita, Wijayanti, 2022). Those all

four have not discussed feminism issues. Some studies in liberal feminism have been discussed in some films. Hastuti, Gunawan and Andriani (2018) discussed liberal feminism in *North Country* movie and Miskiyah & Sofyan (2023) delineated liberal feminism in *Brave* film.

Finally, these studies demonstrate that an examination of liberal feminism in "*Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*" has not yet been conducted. With further exploration of the film and the issue, it becomes evident that conducting studies on feminism in "*Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*" is crucial. Characters like Xialing vividly portray the challenges faced by women in their lives. Hence, this study is titled "Representation of Feminism in the Main Character in *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* Movie."

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background has been written, the researcher is interested in analyzing about feminism, writer will focus on these ideas formulate the research question problems:

How is feminism represented in the main character in *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* movie?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the problem formulation to analyze the research objective from this research is has aimed to find out the representation of feminism in the main character in *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* movie.

1.4 Uses of The Study

The writer in this study hopes that this research can provide benefits to the reader and the surrounding society, the writer also hopes that the reader understands regarding the issues that exist in this research so that it can be a reference for further research. Thus, the use of the study in this research is divided into two parts, which are practical use and theoretical use which will be explained below.

1.4.1 Practical Use

This research focused on achieving equality and freedom for women. Women are empowered to chase their aspirations and exercise their autonomy in shaping their life choices. Employing a feminist approach, this research seeks to scrutinize and address the underlying issues. Women possess the liberty to voice their opinions, enabling them to make choices freely. This signifies those individuals, including women, have the capacity to openly express their emotions, relish their freedom, and exercise their right to pursue their desires. This approach is suitable to analyze the movie because in the movie shows how the struggles Xu Xialing wants to train a martial art but her father only focuses on training her brother, her father does not want to train her because she is a woman.

1.4.2 Theoretical Use

Hopefully this research can also provide information and understanding of how a story is sequential and interrelated. Therefore, theories from several experts are also

needed so that this research can be proven correctly. The theory is used as a reference which in this study is used to help the author in conducting the analysis so that it can be useful and can be an inspiration for everyone in conducting further research with a more detailed analysis, especially discussing the structure in a literary work such as novels, films, or drama.

1.5 Scope of Study

To avoid a wider discussion the writer uses the object for this research as a movie, based on the title of feminism through the main characters in *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings Movie*. This study used feminist approach while the theories of feminism employed Tong and Madsen theories.