

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of Study

In a broad sense, patriarchy is a system or set of systems that form and maintain inequality between men and women and men's power over women. It is a set of social, political, and economic structures and practices in which men rule, control, and take advantage of women as a group (Kurtz, 2022). In other words, patriarchy is a complicated and varied system that works in different parts of society, such as the social, political, and economic systems. In addition, patriarchy is the way that social structures and social relationships are set up in a hierarchical way that gives men power, privilege, and leadership roles in society (DeKeseredy, 2020).

This phenomenon can still be found in a country like the United States of America, the available data indicates that the country is comparatively behind several of its international partners in terms of paid parental leave, maternal healthcare, adolescent fertility rates, and, to a growing extent, reproductive rights. Furthermore, a Pew Research Center survey reveals that in 2022, there exists a persisting gender pay disparity, whereby women earn an average of 82 cents for every \$1 earned by males (Anyangwe & Mahtani, 2023). Thus, patriarchy works through social structures and relationships to keep unequal treatment of men and women in place. The prevailing tendency is to refer to female roles as feminine and male roles as masculine (Yunara & Kardiansyah,

2017). By recognizing patriarchy as a system, we can identify how it enables and maintains masculine dominance and its benefits.

The system of patriarchy was institutionalized and incorporated into social structures, laws, and cultural practices (Nash, 2020). As a consequence, the system evolves into an ideology that is subsequently applied to society. The statement is consistent with Judith Butler's feminist theory in that both emphasize the pervasive and deeply established character of patriarchal structures in society. Judith Butler's work is especially pertinent in this context because she is well-known for her contributions to the subject of gender and sexuality studies, which connect with feminist theory (He, 2017).

Butler's influential concept of "performativity" challenges traditional notions of gender and identity, saying that gender is something that is built and sustained via repeating acts and behaviors rather than an inherent, stable identity. Butler's book "Gender Trouble" (1990) criticizes the binary and essentialist understandings of gender roles, claiming that they are not biologically fixed but rather the result of social and cultural standards (He, 2017).

There are two terms of ideology based on Pam Morris; first, it is a set of beliefs that people choose or refuse on purpose, like competitive individualism, communism, or any religion. Second, ideology is also used to describe how we see reality. This term is in the setting of patriarchal ideology, which means, ideology is also based on the idea that as we become part of our society's cultural

life; learning its language and interacting with other people, we adopt and take on its ways of seeing things (Morris, 1993). The second term is the term that will be applied by the writer because based on the term, society gradually draws individuals into a complex network of values, assumptions, and expectations that were always there before us and so seem normal, just the way things are.

Throughout history, literature has played an important role in perpetuating and fighting the patriarchal ideology in societies worldwide. Many classic literary works reflect and reinforce gender stereotypes and power disparities. When movies came along, they were also regarded as a form of literature because they are a type of artistic composition. Furthermore, movies frequently contain a tale, plot, characters, and environment, all of which are elements found in written works (Klarer, 2004). Movies have a big effect on changing and challenging how people think about women because it shows how gender roles and images have changed over time. We can see how portrayals of women have changed over time by looking at the past of movies. These changes reflect shifting cultural norms, expectations, and feminist movements. In the early days of movies, women were often portrayed in limited, stereotypical parts that reinforced traditional ideas about gender (Klarer, 2004). Looking into the past of movies helps us understand how important they have been in changing and broadening our views on women's roles, power, and presence in society.

*A League of Their Own*, which was released in 1992, is one of the movies that may have depicted patriarchal ideology in society. The movie describes the

situation during World War II. At that time, most of the men were fighting; meanwhile; women filled most of the positions left empty due to their absence. The owners of the baseball teams decide to establish women- only teams, and scouts are dispatched across the nation to find female players. One of the explorers travels through Oregon and discovers the incredible Dottie Hinson. He approaches her and invites her to try out, but she declines; her sister Kit has been yearning to leave Oregon and offers to accompany him; he accepts only if she can persuade her sister to accompany him. Dottie, a proficient catcher and all-around baseball athlete, appears to have it all. On the other hand, Kit is constantly reminded of how she pales compared to her sister despite her desire to create a name for herself. The primary conflict rests within the relationship between the two main characters; however, due to the 1940s and 1950s setting, the movie appears to depict a patriarchal historical context. The women's movement did not begin until the 1960s in the United States of America. Therefore, the depiction of women's roles and men's attitudes toward women in the movie are founded on the position of women in society at the time.

The setting of time of the movie is World War II and the era's requirements raised demands for both male and female laborers, domestic hardships and responsibilities, and social and cultural conformity pressures on Americans. The majority of women worked in the clerical and service sectors, where they had for decades, but the wartime economy created employment opportunities for women in traditionally male-dominated heavy industries and wartime production plants. On the home front, working women confronted unique

obstacles. Those with children struggled with child care and domestic responsibilities. They frequently confronted sexual harassment, hazardous working conditions, low paychecks, and long hours (Anyangwe & Mahtani, 2023).

In the 1940s, women in the US faced a lot of inequality. During World War II, A. Philip Randolph, a labor leader, said he would hold a march on Washington to protest unfair hiring practices. Women were very important in the Civil Rights Movement. They led neighborhood civil rights groups and fought for school segregation rights as lawyers. But men's work was often overshadowed, and in common historical accounts and celebrations, men still got more attention and credit for the movement's successes. In the movement, many women were sexually harassed and treated unfairly because of their gender. In the 1940s, these women joined the feminist movement. Women were also not allowed to have better-paying, higher-status jobs that allowed them to move around, and many had no choice but to do housework for white families (Library of Congress, 2015).

This research aims to reveal and educate readers and researchers about the presence of patriarchal ideology, namely during World War II in the United States, by examining the portrayal of female characters in the movie *A League of Their Own*. In addition, the writer stated that previous studies have primarily concentrated on clarifying patriarchal ideology in the present era, following the 1960s. In the meantime, the writer's research works as a point of reference for

discussions on comparable issues and future academics and students of English literature when analyzing women's experiences during World War II.

### **1.2. Research Question**

How is the patriarchal ideology portrayed through the female characters in the movie *A League of Their Own* 1992?

### **1.3. Research Objective**

This research aims to portray patriarchal ideology through the female characters in the movie *A League of Their Own* 1992.

### **1.4. Uses of Study**

This research aims to provide future researchers, English literature, or society as a whole with insights into patriarchal ideology in a literary work or movie.

#### **1.4.1 Theoretical Use**

This research applies the patriarchal ideology theory by Kate Millet and integrates it with several other experts. It is expected that this research will enrich the knowledge of upcoming academic researchers with similar research interests. Furthermore, this research also informs the general public about a movie with a patriarchal ideology theme. The ideology can influence how individuals and societies view women and their roles.

#### **1.4.2 Practical Use**

This research will assist academic researchers in gaining a greater knowledge

of the topic of patriarchal ideology as it relates to a movie. In addition to this, it offers guidance on the best ways to gather information from a movie. Moreover, the findings of this study can also be used as a guide to conduct a movie analysis on a similar subject.

### **1.5. Scope of the Study**

The current research limited It discusses and analyzes the depiction of patriarchal ideology in the movie released in 1992, *A League of Their Own*, focusing on the male and the female characters in the baseball team All American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL). In this research, the feminist approach will be used as a lens to analyze the movie because the writer intends to portray patriarchal ideology through female characters. Furthermore, the writer will integrate Kate Millet, and Sylvia Walby's perspectives on patriarchal ideology with additional sources from other philosophers.