

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Sexual harassment is a widespread problem in the world, including in the Texas area, both in the world of work and education. In Texas, sexual harassment is a common problem, especially in schools, as described in the novel "*Moxie*". Jennifer Mathieu wrote this novel because of the many harassments that occur in the educational environment, so she is encouraged to describe sexual harassment in literary works in the form of novels. The National Institute of Sexual and Intimate Affairs (RAINN) reports that cases of sexual violence in the United States increase by 98 percent each year, with 321,000 victims, 18,900 victims, 60,000 children, and 80,600 victims affected each year. In the United States, sexual harassment is rampant, and the government imposes sanctions and implements psychological measures to reduce harassment, and PPPA Indonesia reportedly receives significant financial support. On the other hand, research conducted shows that the PPPA ministry in Indonesia receives a budget of approximately IDR 250 billion (Cinta.L.K., 2021). The public supports the government's decision to follow up on punishment for sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is described as unwanted sexual advances, solicitation for sexual favors, and any verbal or physical behaviors of a sexual nature that explicitly or implicitly impact an individual's employment (Weinberg & Nielsen, 2017). It includes both explicit actions and non-verbal behaviors that cause individuals to feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated. This issue has gained significant attention in recent years as it affects various aspects of people's lives and requires action to create safe and respectful environments.

Sexual harassment has become a social problem and is very disturbing to mental health because it has a negative impact on victims. This leads to many consequences, such as physical and psychological disturbances. Which mean Sexual harassment has become a social problem that can interfere with the mental health of every victim, the statement clearly shows that sexual harassment is issues now days and it can distribute someone mental health (Avina & O'Donohue, 2002). About 1,037 students in Texas, US, are subject to social harassment such as decreased academic satisfaction, faculty perception, engagement, and performance. According to (Cortina et al., 1998). This case also happens to be described in the novel the title is *Moxie*. Sexual Harrasement cases occurred in the US until in 2020 sexual harrasment cases reached 13,509 rape violations that occurred in Texas (O'Rourke, 2022). The depiction of social abuse that occurred in Texas can also be seen from the *Moxie* novel. *Moxie* is a novel that tells the story of sexual harassment that occurred in Texas in 1990. The novel was published in 2017. The author chose to analyze the novel in this study because Novels offer believable, in-depth accounts of human emotions, daily life, and societal dynamics, revealing nuanced individuals and circumstances, and serving as a mirror to the real world.

Sexual harassment has been extensively studied and researched in the 20th and 21st centuries. Sexual harassment also occurs around the world including the Texas area. As a state, Texas has significant data on crimes with sexual harassment. The research about Sexual Harassment seen in *Moxie* novel by Jenifer Mathieu's will be highlighted by the author. By doing this, the reader will be able to see how this study expands the topic's scope and comprehension. The last statewide study, conducted in 2003, found 13% of adult Texans experienced sexual assault (Busch-Armendariz et al., 2015). Numerous review papers have aimed to synthesize existing literature on this subject. Over the last three decades, sexual harassment has been recognized as a significant issue. This can also be taken as targeting someone of a specific gender, such as

females, since they have been falsely, but stereotypically, viewed as subordinate. Highlights the importance of understanding social abuse.

Literature shows that sexual harassment is often perpetrated by someone with power. This is what causes the author to choose this novel and topic, in cases like this it is a case that is indeed very interesting when we want to discuss it in the realm of literature, because in the realm of literature there is a literary name as a depiction or mirror of society. Literature, by definition, is the expression of our feelings and actions. An imagination often referred to as a literary work describes the expression. There are many literary works in literature, including plays, novels, films, and poems. The novel will be a literary work researched in this study (Herawati & Fithratullah, 2022). One of the most important elements in a literary work is literature that has moral strength and value (Mahendra & Amelia, 2020). From the statement above, we can conclude that in literature there is often social harassment committed by someone who has a high position (Bakirci, 1998).

Sexual harassment is often portrayed in literature as a means to express reality and emotions. It can be found in literary works such as novels, films, poems, phrases, and dramas. One of literary works that may discuss sexual harassment is in *Moxie* novel by Jennifer Mathieu. This novel has gained popularity among teenagers in the USA for its depiction of real-life events in a school setting. Published in December 2015, *Moxie* is a fictional novel that follows the story of 16-year-old Vivian. Despite being a dutiful and kind girl, Vivian harbors dreams beyond societal expectations. Inspired by her mother's rebellious past as a Riot Grrrl, Vivian initiates the *Moxie* movement in response to the dismissive attitude towards harassment faced by girls at her school. The novel delves into issues of sexual harassment within the U.S. education system, portraying it as a response to the oppression women endure. Vivian, with the support

of friends like Lucy, challenges sexist norms through a *Moxie* magazine and various actions, addressing concerns such as the objectification of women and unequal sports funding.

The narrative unfolds the journey of empowerment, friendship, and solidarity as the students unite to demand equality and challenge stereotypes associated with sexual harassment. This study discusses the values of sexual harassment seen in the main character of the *Moxie* novel. This research is motivated by how single humans want to be treated equally in expressing themselves in all aspects of life, for example in gender. The novel is chosen because it portrays sexual crime to students in Texas. The study is finally considered important as this issue has not been discussed and the portrayal of sexual crime needs to elaborate more using sociological perspective (Natasya, 2022).

The psychological approach is usually employed for sexual harassment issue. However, the writer thought it important to have the study entitled *Sexual Harassment in Texas Seen in Jennifer Mathieu's Moxie Novel*. In this study the author uses the Theory of Catharine A. MacKinnon about Sexual Harassment.

1.2 Research Question

From the explanation in the background above, the problem formulated is as followed:

How is sexual harassment in Texas delineated in the *Moxie* novel?

1.3 Research Objective

The objective of a study refers to the specific goal or purpose that the writers aim to achieve through their investigation. It outlines what the writers intend to accomplish and what they hope to contribute to the existing knowledge in a particular field or area of study. Thus the objective of this study is to delineate sexual harassment in Texas in the *Moxie* novel.

1.4 Uses of the Study

With this research, it is hoped that it can help readers to understand what problems occur in the novel *Moxie* through sexual harassment with a sociological approach, because in this study the author chooses to discuss sexual harassment and environmental responses experienced by women in life in America.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

For theoretical purposes, research on sexual harassment in *Moxie's* novel can add knowledge to literary theory, learning how it challenges or reinforces traditional gender norms. This paper can also be an analysis of the impact of sexual harassment on characters in *moxie* novels. In this study take the perspective of gender studies, character analysis and explain the picture of sexual harassment that occurs. By examining the novel's narrative through this theory, this study aims to provide readers with an understanding of sexual harassment.

1.4.2 Practical Use

From theoretical use, this study moved its attention to practical use, this practical use aims to provide learning about overcoming and preventing sexual harassment. Inspired by the narrative of the novel, this study provides knowledge of anti-harassment in educational institutions, utilizing school settings in *the moxie* novel. In addition, this study is also a guideline for readers in fighting sexual harassment. This research provides lessons on how real strategies for the rejection of sexual harassment such as those in the *novel moxie* to shape a more comfortable, safe, and inclusive environment.

1.5 Scope of Study

This research focuses on delineation of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another, As happens in some characters in the *novel Moxie* . This research limited to the discussion of sexual harassment in Texas in the *Moxie* novel. The writer focuses on the main character named Vivian who lives in Texas and the background of this research is focused in America, Texas 1990's. This research will use theory from Alan Swingewood. In the 1990's there was a lot of sexual harassment that occurred to women, in that year the government also did not care too much about sexual harassment cases that occurred in Texas, America. So that men easily commit such harassment, whether at school, in the community, in the world of work or in other public places.