

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the research question, aims and objectives, the scope of the study, and the significance of the study. This chapter also gives insight regarding the clarification of key terms as well as the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work is a medium to express the author's thoughts which are imaginative, aesthetic, and pleasing to the reader. Literary works are created by authors to be enjoyed, understood, and utilized by society (Damono, 1984). One form of literary work is film. A film is one of the media that has been popular in mass communication and enjoyed by the public. A film is a series of moving images shown on a screen, usually with sound, that makes up a story.

In this global era, many people are interested in watching films. People may now watch films anytime and from any location due to more advanced technology advances such as the internet and smartphones. Most of the films were adapted from true stories, and some were adopted from books or novels. There are various kinds of film genres: comedies, cartoons, documentaries, and animations. An animated film is a moving image or illustration ranging from stop motion, two dimensions to three dimensions.

Walt Disney is one of the most famous children's movie production houses. Walt Disney mostly tells about royal princesses like Snow White, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, etc. Previously, film Disney stories depicted or reflected the image of women who were weak and had to wait for help from other people or the prince. According to Hourihan (2005), the role of the hero in stories was dominated by males because it was once assumed that heroism was an inherently masculine trait. Female characters are often marginalized in male hero stories and are deemed not as important as male characters. Especially in children's literature, female characters are rare, and in some children's literary works, they do not even exist (Hourihan,

2005). When female characters exist, they do not get heroic roles, and most of them are portrayed as passive and docile (Hourihan, 2005).

However, Walt Disney not only features a male superhero character but also features female superheroes. Among Disney's female characters, some can be considered heroes. For instance, Fa Mulan from the film *Mulan* (1998), Moana from the film *Moana* (2016), and Maleficent from the film *Maleficent* (2014), which is the object of this research.

Walt Disney released the film *Maleficent* two times in 2014 and 2019. This film is based on characters from Disney's *Sleeping Beauty* and *La Belle Au Bois Dormant* written by Charles Perrault. *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* (2019) is interesting because she is represented as an evil fairy who is the main character in this film. Different from other Disney films, this film is depicting the main female character name Maleficent. She is an evil fairy and a female leader who is not only strong among other creatures but also caring and highly respected.

From the several studies, the characterization of Maleficent indicates a feminist perspective on being a woman. Maleficent is the main female character who has emerged as a powerful woman, but she does not abuse her power. David (2020) found that as the main female character, Maleficent is described as a powerful woman who does not care about her status as a woman or villain. Hence, Maleficent presents as a feminist character.

Feminism comes in waves and this study will focus on the third wave of feminism, which is in care-focused feminism. Care-focused feminism emphasizes the feminine side of women as caregivers to people around her. As Maleficent does in this film, she really cares to Aurora, Dark Feys, and the Moors. Besides that, Gilligan (1982) argues that in this world, we need to be caring for each other, both women and men, and trying to live in harmony with one another.

Studies on feminism are plenty. For example, Becker, et al., (2016) analyze reveals post-feminism for children in *Bratz* Film. Second, Azizah and Fitria (2019) analyze the representation of liberal feminism through its main character. Third, Siagian (2018) analyzes the main character reflecting the feminism varieties. In

another study there is research in terms of the main characterization, such as Fitria (2021) identifies the characterization of the main character in *Hicky* movies.

Most of the previous studies discussed the main female character of the film. Maleficent is also the main female character, but she has a different characterization from the others. She is a good fairy who turns into an evil fairy, so humans see her as a villain. Her characterization is a strong female leader and cares for her fellow creatures. Thus, she is highly respected by others. This present study aims to fill the gap by identifying the portrayal of the feminist character in Maleficent through care-focused feminism from Gilligan (1982).

1.2 Research Question

The research attempts to answer the following question:

1. How is Maleficent portrayed as a feminist?

1.3 Aims and Objectives of Study

Through this study, the researcher aims to examine the portrayal of the feminist character Maleficent in *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* (2019) through care-focused feminism from Gilligan (1982). To achieve the previously mentioned, the researchers collected the data by watching the film repeatedly.

The objectives of this study are to provide readers with general information related to feminism. In order to analyze the data, the researcher used the theory of care-focused feminism from Gilligan (1982) as the theoretical research framework.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is the character Maleficent in *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* (2019) film by Joachim Rønning. This study focuses on the characterization of Maleficent, as the main female character that reflects care-focused feminism.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to answer the research questions. Furthermore, it is important to provide readers with information related to feminism,

especially care-focused feminism, so that readers can also get information about why women are associated with dependencies, communities, and relationships.

1.6 Clarification of Key Terms

1.1. Care-Focused Feminism

According to Gilligan (1982), care-focused feminism is a care ethic that focuses on the responsibility of ensuring care for the people.

1.2. Character

A character can be defined as someone in a literary work with an identity made up of appearance, conversation, action, name, and thoughts in the head. Bennett and Royle (2004) state that characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation.

1.3. Maleficent

According to the dictionary, Maleficent means causing harm or evil. Maleficent is a fictional character who appears as the main antagonist in *Sleeping Beauty* (1959).

1.7 Organization of the Paper

This paper is composed in the following structure:

1. ABSTRACT

This section is a summary of the paper that presents brief information about what the content is.

2. CHAPTER I: Introduction

In the first chapter, the researcher presents the introduction about this study which comprises the background of the study, research questions, aims and objectives, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the clarification of key terms as well as the organization of the paper

3. CHAPTER II: Literature Review

The second chapter provides the theoretical framework utilized in the study and previous studies that identify with the subject of this study. This study used the theory of care-focused feminism from Gilligan (1982) as the theoretical framework and film theory by Bordwell, Thompson, and Smith (2016).

4. CHAPTER III: Methodology

The third chapter clarifies the methodology which elaborates on the design of the research and the steps in research analysis.

5. CHAPTER IV: Findings and Discussions

This fourth chapter provides the answer to the research question. Hence, this chapter is all about the findings that are gathered from the data and also the discussions from the findings that provide the answer to the research question.

6. CHAPTER V: Conclusion and Suggestion

Lastly, the five chapters present summarize all of the information from the chapters. This chapter is also provided suggestions for further research.