

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In a country, women have a significant role in society who should be protected from suppression and inequality. Women are God's creature who is weak. However, women have a right for being equal with men in society in any field. In social life, men seem more dominant than women because women are considered unable to do men's work. This why women are often getting degradation, violence, even despising by men. From time to time women fight to being equal with men in any field, such as in social, political, law, religion, education and free from gender discrimination.

Before the 19th century, women in the United Kingdom only enjoy a kind of right; they only have the legal right to their own property without interference of their male relatives. However, although they get for legal right, they can't enjoy a right in the political field, they are not having the right to vote and express their judgment in the government. Women at this time only represent by their male relatives. In the family, women are represented by father, husband or brother. Before the 19th century, there are no women could present in any legal proceeding such as jury. (Shane Mountjoy, 2008:20)

In early 19th century, it is the era of women in England being employee in farms and factories. This time, women's social life is an endless of hard work and drudgery. For example, women who are working in a laundry factory without modern cleaning agents, they have to use their hands for all cleaning process until ironing. There are no distinction between women and men for working hard in the factory; they got violence, pain and not have a guarantee of peacefulness. In political life, it is seen not change as before the 19th century, women are not having yet equality in political elections, their voice is not considered in the government, because in social structure women are in a lower class than men, it means that, if women are allowed to vote, it will change their social structure.

Their judgments have to represent by their male relatives. (Shane Mountjoy, 2008:14 – 15)

Inequality in the social and political field make women in England get discrimination and injustice in the country. The injustice makes women lose their equality, and they must be obey to government adjustment based on men's vote, whereas there are some adjustments that not suitable for women. The weakness of women makes easier the oppression to them, because women get violence when they utter their aspiration and judgment to the government. The anxious for violence causes them perforce to obey for all adjustments which in fact that is harmed for them.

The anxious is not continuously in their self, because those inequalities, in the 19th century women in England continuously organize a campaign to give protest to the government for their equality in political elections. During a campaign, many suffragettes get hurt because the violence from government policy, sometimes they get caught by the policy and entranced to the prison. Although their way is very hard, women in England never give up fighting their equality to have a vote in political event. For several decades, women in England are being citizen who is life in inequality in the society. (Shane Mountjoy : 2008)

The phenomenon above is also found in the movie script entitled "Suffragette", where women in United Kingdom in 1912 not have yet a right to be equal with men in the social and political field. The problem of women inequality makes the main character "Maud" gathers to the women campaign to struggle for women social and political equality in England. She is willing to leave her job and her family to participate in a political campaign to get suffrage for women in her country. Although there are many resistances for her decision for becoming suffragette, but she decided to help women in her country to get equality.

In this study, the researcher attempts to analyze the role of "Maud" as the main female character who struggles to gain women social and political equality in the movie script, "Suffragette", which full a lot of obstacles and pains. Struggle means an effort to do something difficult, in "Suffragette" movie script, the researcher found the action illustration of Maud's struggle which contains of *feminism* element. It is a documentary movie from USA which released in 2015.

The script is written by Abi Morgan in 2013. This movie is directed by Sarah Gavron and produced by Allison Owen and Faye Ward. The genre is drama and history about women's suffrage in the United Kingdom. From those reasons, the researcher is interested to identify the role of Maud's character in this movie, and analyze the illustration of her struggle to gain women social and political equality by using *feminist theory*.

The researcher uses feminism as a tool to analyze and criticize the problem of the research, because this movie illustrates about women's problem and their struggle to get a similar right with men. Feminist theory is used as the main theory by researcher to analyze all effort of women in "Suffragette" movie script, especially Maud's character who struggles to gain social and political equality for women.

The researcher considers this movie because there are many knowledge and lesson for women to know the history of women's equality in the world. This movie also contains the spirit of feminism which becomes significant problem in this study. "Suffragette" is the newest movie about women movement in 2015, which uses England as the setting of place. In its achievement, it attains many awards in several categories such as "British Independent Film Awards 2015, Hollywood Film Award 2015, and European Film Awards 2016". (www.imdb.com/title/tt3077214/awards)

Although there are some previous studies use American as the background of the research that analyzed by using Feminist theory, the researcher decided to use England as the background of this research because it also considers as an influential country for women movement to get social and political Equality. Because some reasons above, the researcher uses "Suffragette" movie script as the object of the research, and try to make a research entitled "The struggle of Maud's character to accept the equality in social and political field in the movie script "Suffragette".

1.2 Research Question

From the background above, the researcher attempt to answer the following questions:

- 1.2.1 What are the causes of Maud's struggle to gain women social and political equality in the movie script "Suffragette"?
- 1.2.2 How are the struggles of Maud character to gain women social and political equality in the movie script "Suffragette"?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the aims of this study are:

1. To identify the causes of Maud's struggle to gain women social and political equality in the movie script "Suffragette".
2. To analyze the struggles of Maud's character to gain women social and political equality in the movie script "Suffragette" through feminist theory.

1.4 Significant of the Study

Through this study, the researcher expected that the finding of this study can be useful for:

1. Students : as a reference for students who are interested to learn about literature especially about movie script analysis by using feminist theory, and how it works in this study. This study is also hoped to give a deep understanding for them.
2. Lecturer : as an additional sources for teaching literature
3. Readers : as a source of knowledge for the reader who love literature study, especially about woman's struggle to gain equality and the use of feminist theory that contained in the movie.

1.5 Scope and limitation of the research

In this study, the researcher only analyzes the script of "Suffragette". And it is limited on the struggle of "Maud" character to gain social and political equality for women.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

1. **Equality** : It is a fact of being equal (same) in right, status, and advantages.
It is a situation of people's life both individual and group in many kinds of relationship for being equal. (Baker, at all, 2004)
2. **Women** : It is the plural of "woman", which have a meaning as a female human who is adult.
3. **Social Equality**: It is the term that has a relation with all interaction in society, both the relation between men and women in individual or group, and the relation between societies with around environment.
4. **Political Equality**: Organization of government about making agreement for member or society to be live together in a group of city or country.