

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer wants to discuss about the background of the study, the problem of the study, and the objectives of the study and also inform the readers about the significance of this research.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is written or spoken material that contains art. Literature is commonly used to refer to prose, novels, poetry, drama, short story, folktales, etc.

Based on Taylor (1981, p.1), "literature, like others arts, is essentially an imaginative act, that is, an act of the writer's imagination is selecting, ordering and interpreting life experience."

Folktale is a term for various kinds of narrative prose literature found in the oral traditions of the world. According to Richard Bauman (1992, p.101) :

"Folktales, hence, is an oral narrative told by peasant, lower classes, or traditional people whose literacy, if existing, is minimal. In their verbal art these groups were thought to embody the spirit of a nation."

Folktales are heard and remembered, and they are subjects to various alterations in the course of retellings. Some folktales may pass in and out of written literature, and some stories of literary origin may cross over into oral tradition from one generation to other generation. Nowadays, there are folktales that are written and also filmed.

Film is one of the media that is made to visualize literary works that convey message to people. As described by Brooks (1997, p.163): "Film is made

by recording photographic images with cameras, by creating images using animation techniques and visual effects.”

The duration of film is usually one or two hours and tells a fictional story or real event in which it is acted by an actor. Film is a form of entertainment that can bring people who watch it go to imaginary world in a short period of time.

Film is not only to entertain people, but also give moral value about history, science, human behavior, and many more to people. Film also has literary elements such as: plot, theme, character, setting, and so on. There are some films that are adapted from folktale, such as; *Hansel and Gretel*, *Mirror Mirror*, *Enchanted*, *Sydney White* and many others. Film that is adapted from folktales sometimes has the same elements with the original story, but some directors modify the film to get a new way to enjoy folktales.

In 2012, there was a movie adapted from *Snow White* story, *Snow White and The Huntsman*. It was directed by Rupert Sanders and written by Evan Daugherty, Martin Solibakke, John Lee Hancock, and Hossein Amini. This film was played by Charlize Theron, Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth, Sam Claflin, and Bob Hoskins. The film had its premiere on May 14 2012, at the Empire, Leicester Square, in London. It received two Oscar nominations for Best Visual Effects and Best Costume Design at the 85th Academy Awards.

Snow White and the Huntsman tells about *Snow White* whose stepmother, Ravenna, tried to get immortal life after taking over the kingdom from her husband, King Magnus. Based on Magic Mirror's advice, Ravenna desired to eat *Snow White*'s heart. *Snow White* who knew about this ran away from the castle

helped by a bird which gave her direction. Ravenna asked her brother, Finn to catch Snow White wherever she went. Snow White rode a white horse far into the Dark Forest where Ravenna has no power. So, Ravenna asked Finn to catch Snow White in the Dark Forest helped by Eric "The Huntsman". In the middle of the way, the Huntsman killed Finn because he knew that Ravenna tricked him. Then, Eric took side with Snow White. Ravenna was very angry with the death of her brother, so she tried many things to catch and kill Snow White even if she did it alone, she gave Snow White a poisonous apple and made Snow White faint, but in the end she got bad luck, she was killed by Snow White. This film is interesting to be analyzed because it has a different plot with the original story that we know of. Besides, this film contains feminism issue.

After watching the film, the writer focuses on Ravenna as the important character of this film because her character reflects how woman fought against subordination issue. Ravenna killed the King and took over the kingdom to rule under her throne. Women subordination occurs because of patriarchal system, a system that described women position is the second after the men. According to Gerth and Mills (1958, p. 296):

"Patriarchalism is by far the most important type of domination the legitimacy of which rests upon tradition. Patriarchalism means the authority of the father, the husband, the senior of the house, the sib elder over the members of the household and sib; the rule of the master and patron over bondsmen, serfs, freed men; of the lord over the domestic servants and household officials' of the prince over house- and court-officials, nobles of office, clients, vassals; of the patrimonial lord and sovereign prince over the 'subjects'."

The writer will use feminism theory to analyze this film. According to Ruth Robbins (1999, p.50):

“What all feminist theories share is focus on women. That bald statement conceals a multitude of possibilities, not least because the collective noun ‘women’ disguises women at different between women, and the differences in individual women at different times in a single life”

Feminism is a woman movement which pays attention to women's right and position in education, political, social, and economy to get equality with men.

There is a relation between feminism and Ravenna's character because in the film revealed how Ravenna tried to attract a king to marry her and take over the kingdom with her power to be under her throne. This study aims to reveal how Ravenna took over the kingdom by killing the king then rule the kingdom. Under her throne, Ravenna showed that she can lead men in the kingdom, whatever she want it should be done. Thus, the writer entitled the work " Negative Woman Stereotype As Reflected By Ravenna's Character In *Snow White and The Huntsman* movie".

This study is interesting because it is taken from a well-known folktale which is served in a different plot with showing Ravenna as a woman who can substitute man and can rule the kingdom. This film showed the audience that women are not weak, women can raise and struggle to get equality with men when the world is dominated by men. Hopefully, this film can inspire us with the Ravenna figure as a strong woman.

1.2 Problem of The Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem of the study is: how is negative portrayal of powerful woman reflected by Ravenna character in *Snow White and The Huntsman* movie?

1.3 Objective of The Study

Thus, the objective of the study is to analyze negative portrayal of powerful woman reflected by Ravenna character in *Snow White and The Huntsman* movie.

