

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of The Study

There are many ways for human to express their ideas, thoughts, and opinions. One of those ways is in the form of literature. Literature is a reflection of human life that is commonly presented in writing or written language. It describes events that happen in society. Literature cannot be separated from people's lives since it is a kind of mirror for the real life. Literary works are created through the imaginative writing that takes the author's experience and fantasies. Fajardo (2001, para.1) writes "more than two thousand years ago the Roman poet Horace claimed that literature is "sweet" and "useful". Since then, literature has been traditionally understood, at least in Western cultures, as having the dual purposes of entertaining and educating its audience." Dharma (1984, p.54) believes that literature is actually expressing a matter of life, philosophy and psychology.

There are a lot of stories inspire the authors in making a literary works. According to Wellek and Warren (1965, p.212) "literature must stand in recognizable relation to life in such a way that is in any case a selection from life".

In other words, literature must indeed be true to human's life. Furthermore, Leavis (1948, p.23) says "as part of minority culture, literature had a profoundly moral role in helping to combat the destructive forces of mass civilization." In other words literature could provide a critic related to moral role as a part of civilization.

In this modern era, there are some literary works that exist in society, one of them is movie. The popularity of movie has made a new development in literary media. Many novels, songs, or even folklores have been filmed to give a new way in enjoying literary works. As one of the literary works that is close with people, movie holds the important role in society. The existence of a movie can be a reflection of the condition in a society, the belief of a society, the condition of the movie maker itself, or even the fairy tale that is common in society. The purposes of making a movie also can be various. The movie maker can make it for money, for knowledge, and for showing and keeping the existence of a fairy tale. Over all the most important reason a movie exists is to entertain people.

Nowadays there are a lot of movie genres that exist in the society. According to Robert McKee, (2000, p. 80-86) movies are distinguished into fourteen big genres such as action, adventure, animation, comedy, crime, drama, documentary, erotica, horror, fantasy, romance, thriller, family, and war. The genre that will be discussed further is fantasy genre. Fantasy genre, based on Jane in her journal "Medievalism and the Fantasy Heroine" (2006), could be described as something that contains unrealistic rudiments, such as magical powers, talking animals, etc. Fantasy is often characterized by a departure from the accepted rules by which individuals perceive the world around them; it represents something impossible (unexplained) and outside the parameters of our known, reality.

Fantasy genre is commonly related with fairy tales story.

According to Thompson, (1972, p. 55) a fairy tale is a type of short story that typically features folkloric fantasy characters, such as fairies, goblins, elves, trolls, dwarves, giants, mermaids or gnomes, and usually magic or enchantments

and explicitly moral tales. In addition, Catherine, (2009, p. 40) stated that in cultures where demons and witches are perceived as real, fairy tales may merge into legends, where the narrative is perceived both by teller and hearers as being grounded in historical truth. However, unlike legends and epics, they usually do not contain more than superficial references to religion and actual places, people, and events; they take place once upon a time rather than in actual times. The existence and the various fairy tales depend on the society the same story can become a heritage from generation to generation.

A movie that adapts a common fairy tale could be telling the story that is similar to what the society believes. To make the story more interesting the movie maker can make some addition and omission to the fairy tales. The plot or the ending of the fairy tale movies can be different from the common fairy tale it is intended to make the movie more fascinating. Hence the viewers prefer watching new version of common fairy tale. Making a fairy tale movie can become so serious. A lot of things are needed to prepare, because some fairy tales are common enough in the society, and surely the society know well how the movie will be presented.

The director of a fairy tale movie has to be more creative to sell their movies out. A fairy tale movie director should not only be creative but also he or she has to know how to develop the fairy tale itself. The growths of movie also become the most factors to be known by the movie maker. He or she need to understand the most happening issue in society. By understanding the issue of the society a movie maker can make a suitable work that is acceptable in that society.

In early 20th century, gender issue became the most happening issue in American society. Gender issue influences literary works in society, for example the movement gender issue that happens in American society emerges some movies that show the strength and the braveness of women. Action, drama, and other genres try to figure out women as brave and strong character. Not only those genres, today there are some animation movies which is take women as the main character. There are some movies showing society problems, even there are some movies that retell a common fairy tale with the same or different plot.

The existence of gender issue brings some literary works changes their theme in the stories. They were delivering the spirit of gender role changes. Some movies were used to take women as the object of weakness and take men character as the heroes. The director give weak characterization to image women in their movies, in contrast the movie maker places men in strong characterization. Hence in this modern era there are some new or even remaking movies tried to show the changes of gender role.

Snow White is a familiar fairy tale from German known in American society. Because the story is always interesting, people in that societies keep this fairy tale exists. There are some cartoons and animation movies that show this popular fairy tales. The fairy tale told there was a little beautiful princess, named Snow White who lost her mother in her birth, and let her father to marry a new queen. Snow White's step mother was not good she killed the king and took the kingdom. The bad Queen also wanted to kill Snow White because of her jealousy to Snow's beauty. The queen tried to kill Snow White by letting one of her servant to take Snow White's liver and lungs. However Snow White was saved. The

servant let Snow White run into the woods. She was then saved by seven dwarfs.

When knowing that her servant failed to kill Snow White, The Queen then went to the forest and gave a poisonous red apple to Snow. After eating the apple, Snow White was collapsed, but she did not die, she just laid in a very long sleep. She was sleeping until she was found by a prince. The prince then kissed her and saved her life, the story ended with a happy ending that Snow White got married and lived happily ever after with a very wealthy charming prince.

The first cartoon movie was shown in 1912, and became the most popular animation since it was played by real people in 1937 that brings Walt Disney-the movie maker- in an animation golden time. Snow White fairy tale is always interesting from generation to generation, as this story was filmed about more than 50 times from 1912 until 2012 (*The Brothers Grimm and Folktale*). The first cartoon movie was remade for several times, and the animation movie was also reconstructed with some additions appropriate with the society.

Most versions of Snow White movies have the same main idea, it shows Snow White shellacking. There are also some movies that bring Snow White fairy tale's main idea, but covered with different plot, character and characterization.

The reconstruction of the Snow White's story main idea, in some remake movie gives another experience for the viewer.

Mirror Mirror is one of the Snow White fairy tale movies that bring another Snow White story version. Tarsem Singh the director of this fairy tale movie still adopted the story from Brothers Grimm's novel entitled Snow White.

The main idea of this movie was also the same with Grimm's but there are some addition and reduction in this version. If the old Snow White story told that Snow

White was only a very beauty, poor and weak daughter that always obey the queen, *Mirror Mirror* tries to show a little different plot. Either Snow White or the Queen has to struggle to get and hold their crown on and the characterizations of both characters are quite different.

This version also shows different ending that gives the viewer a new view. Not only shows a weakness of a queen or a princess, but this version also attempts to give another side of woman. *Mirror Mirror* shows the opposite characterization from the common Snow White fairy tales. If in the old version Snow White was figured as a very weak girl, in *Mirror Mirrors* now White is figured as a very brave and strong girl. The prince that came to save Snow White in the old version was also changed to be a victim who saved by Snow White. This version prove that women especially Snow White as the main character of this movie, not only stand as the weak side but also as the hero of herself and her society.

It is shown in *Mirror Mirror* movie that a woman becomes new female character who is able to fix her own problem and her society. Snow White is figured as a strong girl who doesn't need a prince to save her life. Based on this reason, the writer decides to analyze the change of women image that represented by the main character in *Mirror Mirror* movie. To analyze this movie, the writer uses the concept of gender studies which is relevant with the phenomena in *Mirror Mirror* movie.

1.2 Problem Of The Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem of the study is how the image of women represented by Snow White is changed in *Mirror Mirror* movie?

1.3 Objectives Of The Study

Based on the problem of the study above, the objective of the study is to show how the image of women represented by Snow White is changed in *Mirror Mirror* movie.

