

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Rubin (Glover and Kaplan: 2000:xxiv) insisted that men and women are, of course, different. Many people accept as true that a woman should stay home and do her responsibility as a woman, such as pregnancy and birthing, taking care of her children, cooking and giving attention to her husband, in order to have a happy and prosperous family. On the other hand, a man has other responsibility that is working hard to earn money. Most of women don't consider whether this separation of male and female roles on profession is right or not, they prefer considering that this separation is balance and reasonable, that is both woman and man have glorious responsibility.

McEvaine (1947: 62) states that female and male are simply two different forms that a sexually divided species takes; neither is deformed; neither is superior nor the ideal version of the species. In fact, both sexes are incomplete in the important sense that they are incapable of replicating themselves without combining with a number of the other sex.

Women are generally better than men at verbal ability and one more discerning men in most of the sense. These capabilities were connected to communicating with, caring for, and protecting the young during evolution. Men, on the other hand, developed superior wide-ranging activities. As McElvaine argues that,

Men, to begin with the obvious, tend to be larger and have greater upper body strength. Women have an average superiority in verbal ability, men in visual or spatial perception. Men generally have a greater affinity for risk taking and stronger proclivity for group allegiance. Women tend to have better developed senses of smell, touch, and hearing. More men than women are likely to make quick yes or no decisions, while more women than men are apt to take a longer term, contextual view, considering nuances and alternatives. (McElvaine: 1947: 67)

That explanation gives a large understanding why there is a separation gender role on occupation. But, in this modern era, women have been struggling for gender equality because there is still much discrimination against women in some aspects of life. As Mauk and Oakland (1997:86) note that,

Women have powerfully involved American history through their struggle for equality and resistance against unfair practices. Discrimination has affected all aspects of life. Inequality would and can be documented through the group differences it helps bring in attitudes, economic class, occupation, income, health, housing and crime.

Gender equality is the belief in the equality of the gender or the sexes. The struggle for women's human right must be about making women's lives matter everywhere all the time. In practice, this means taking action to stop discrimination and violence against women. Many followers of this philosophy would like to see this term come to replace feminism or masculism, when used to describe a belief in basic equal rights and opportunities for members of both sexes within legal, social, or corporate established. (http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Feminism). Equality between women and men or gender equality promoting the equal participation of women and men in making decisions, supporting women and girls so

that they can fully exercise their rights, and reducing the gap between women's and men's access to and control of resources and the benefits of development.

One of their struggles is equality on occupation, such as in a military. Today, many women serve on active responsibility in the military services of the Department of Defense (DOD): the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Public opinion shows that communities strongly support women's participation in the military except when it comes to direct, ground, hand to hand combat. Some studies, however, have concluded that women don't have the appropriate physical strength or capacity for aggression for combat roles. One of the most understandable concerns on the subject of women in combat situation is that the fact that, on average, female soldiers do not have as great a physical strength and stamina as their male counterparts. There is also concern that, the female is not as skilled as a man in handling many forces in battle.

As stated in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/female_roles_in_the_military

The role of women in combat has become a particularly contentious issue in contemporary militaries throughout the world. With the current exclusion of women from many combat roles seen by some as a form of sex discrimination, an ongoing debate continues to rage. Many on each side of the issue cite the physical and mental differences of the two sexes, the effect of the presence of the opposite sex on the battlefield, and the traditional view of soldiers as male as arguments both for and against women being employed as soldiers under combat situation.

G.I. JANE, directed by Ridley Scott, is a film that reflected the struggle for gender equality and also reflected her great participation in the military, particularly in her struggle to have right physical power for battle roles. *G.I. Jane* is a 1997 action

movie that narrates the story of the first woman to undergo SEAL (Sea, Air, and Land) training. Lieutenant Jordan O'Neil (Moore's character) is specially selected by a U.S. Senator Lillian de Haven (Anne Bancroft) to go through the rigorous Navy SEAL training right along with the men. Jordan O'Neil faces sexual and physical challenges as well as the horse-trading by the Senator who selected her for the experimental program. Along with the best of the men, the lean, mean, shaven-headed Jordan handles the punishment, including a bizarrely motivated beating from her drill sergeant. The top brass, confident that a woman would quickly drop out, becomes concerned as Jordan's ability to handle training becomes evident. They did not believe that American women should be put in harm's way. Jordan can prove that she has great a physical strength and power as their male counterparts.

Not surprisingly, *G.I JANE* has stirred up a lot of controversy. Many reviewers see this film as sexist trash, a feminist statement or sadistic exploitation. By watching this movie, the reviewers made a statement that women could in fact become whatever they want to become and that is the feminist core of the movie. Unfortunately, there are several minutes of brutal physical violence in this movie that made this movie seen as sadistic exploitation. But, outside this controversy, most the reviewers said that this film isn't monotonous and ridiculous as well as *G.I JANE* is really an interesting movie. In short, *G.I JANE* is a great movie, exciting, entertaining and experimental.

Roger Birnbaum, Demi Moore, Ridley Scott and Suzanne Todd produced *G.I. JANE*. This film distributed by Hollywood Pictures and released in 1997 with 124 minutes running time. Ridley Scott as the director, has directed many famous films, for instance *Alien*, the ground breaking 1979 horror science fiction film that would give him international recognition. He also directed *Thelma & Louise*, released in 1991, the movie proved to be a success and revived Scott's reputation as a film maker, earning his first Oscar nomination, *Gladiator*, a throwback to the sword and scandal epics of the late 50s and early 60s and *Black Hawk Down*, which examined the events of a US humanitarian mission in Somalia that went wrong, resulting in the deaths of several US soldiers and hundred of Somalis.

As stated in http://www.poetrymagic.co.uk/feminism_in_literature, dealing with literature feminism will often reflect the cultural assumptions and attitudes of its period, and that of course includes attitudes towards women: their status, their roles, and their expectations. Feminine concerns to the wider issues of gender in social and cultural contexts. There are many works that deal with many topics of women, such as women's history, labor women, women psychology, lesbianism, etc. These works tried to give out a framework, which can support the modern women on order to be able to communicate their experiences, emotion, and idea. An American woman writer, Adrienne Rich (in Djajanegara: 2000: 29) goes on to note that:

A radical critique of literature, feminist in its impulse, would take the work first of all as a clue to how we live, how we have been living, how we have

been led to imagine ourselves, how our language has trapped as well as liberated us, how the very act of naming has been till now a male prerogative, and how we can begin to see and name-and therefore live- a fresh.

From the illustration above, the writer is interested in analyzing the struggle for gender equality in Ridley Scott's *G.I JANE* film, by using an Amazon Feminism perspective.

B. Literary Review

As far, the students of UMS of Surakarta and UNS of Surakarta have not studied a study for Ridley Scott's *G.I Jane* yet, especially which is related with Amazon feminism perspective. Based on this statement the writer is interested in analyzing this film by using Amazon Feminism perspective.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem in this study is how struggle for gender equality reflected in Ridley Scott's *G.I JANE* using the analysis based on Amazon Feminism perspective.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer will focus on analyzing the struggle of the character of this film for gender equality based on Amazon Feminism perspective.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study as follows:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements
2. To analyze the film based on Amazon feminism perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

Two kinds of benefits that can be gained from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

To give additional information and contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly to the further studies of Ridley Scott's *G.I JANE* based on Amazon Feminism perspective.

2. Practical Benefits

To give deeper understanding and enrich the knowledge of the writer and the readers about Ridley Scott's *G.I JANE* based on Amazon Feminism perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

The object of this study is Ridley Scott's *G.I JANE*, distributed by Hollywood Pictures.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In doing this study, the writer uses two sources of data, there are:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the film itself *G.I JANE* directed by Ridley Scott and its screenplay written by Danielle Alexandra and David Twohy.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data such as biography of the author, some books of feminism, website, political speeches, newspaper editorials and so forth.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of collecting data in this study is library research. The data from both primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a sort of document as evidence. The techniques of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Watching the film
- b. Browsing to the Internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study.
- c. Taking notes of important data from both primary and secondary data.
- d. Arranging the data into several parts according to its classification.
- e. Selecting particular parts that are considered important and relevant for the analysis.
- f. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique employed in analyzing the data is describing analysis. It concerns with the relationship between the film and the feminism theory to show how the struggle for gender equality is reflected in the character in this film.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is classified into six chapters. The first chapter deals with the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. The second chapter covers the underlying theory of feminist perspective in analyzing Ridley Scott's *G.I JANE*. It also includes the notion of the structural elements of the film, and the theoretical application. The third chapter deals the social historical background of United State of America in the late twentieth centuries. The fourth chapter concerns with the structural analysis of the film and the discussion, which includes the structural elements of Ridley Scott's *G.I JANE*. The fifth chapter covers the feminist analysis of the film and the discussion. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.