

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

In reality women are always seen as a powerless and weaknesses object. There is much discrimination accepted by women almost in all aspect of life; it can be found in political, cultural, sexual, racial, and ethnical dimension. In fact, every person was to be given equal opportunities and civil rights (Andersen in Mandell, 1953:3).

Women always consider themselves as a chastity, gentleness and obedience figure. Women did not deserve freedoms of choice and the others rights like men have because they are always seen as an inferior from man. Since women have been constructed as sexual beings, they have been educated to acquire qualities as chastity, gentleness and obedience (Mandell, 1995:6). They must keep their personality not only in front of their husband but also in front of public. This reality brings women into lack of education and freedom of choice, their dependence and faulty socialization (Mandell, 1995:6). It's enough for a woman if she has a writing skill, reading skill and calculates they do not have to get more education. Even, if they have an opportunity to continue their education it must be related with her role as a wife, mother and a house wife (Djajanegara, 2000:6).

Social institution put women as inferior excluded from certain crucial economic or political activities, that their roles as a wives and mothers are

associated with fewer powers and prerogatives than are the roles of man. Women believe that being an ideal wife is the role they were born to fill. They only give chance to take care of their children, family and doing domestic duties (Djajanegara. 2000:5). This phenomenon makes women cannot actualize themselves. They cannot become what they want, what they might become and what profession they want to fill. Feminist theorist seeks to understand the gendered nature of virtually all social and social relation, determines who does what and for whom, what we are and what we might become (Jaggar and Rothenberg, in Mandell. 1995:125)

Rebellion can be reflected in literary work. One of the literary works is film. A film has an important role in recent society since it exposes many issues in daily life. As a means of entertainment, films provides the audience with spectacular of it representation on the screen recognition of the stars, style, gene, and enjoyment of the event it self. Allen and Gomery (1985) discussed the relation between films as follow “The making of film also a social dimension for several reasons. Films maker are members of society and such are no less subject to social pressure and norms than anyone else. Furthermore, all film making occurs within some social context” (Allen and Gomery, 1985:156).

*Mona Lisa Smile* is one of movie that brings feminist issues. This movie was directed by Mike Newell and screen played by Lawrence Konner and Mark Rosenthal. Mike Newell was born on 28 March 1942 in St. Albans ([www.mike.newell.com](http://www.mike.newell.com). 5/13/2006). As a director Newell has

created many movies and television films such as *The Man in the Iron Mask* (1977), *The Awakening* (1980), *Dance With A Stranger* (1985) *The God Father* (1978), *Sour Sweet* (1988), *Into the West* (1992) and *Four Weddings and Funeral* (1994). ([www.mike.newell.com](http://www.mike.newell.com).5/13/2006)

*Mona Lisa Smile* was released in U.S theatrical on December, 13, 2003 by Columbia picture cooperation revolution studios and red OM films ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com).4/20/2006). Director *Mona Lisa Smile* Mike Newell, put academy awards winner Julia Roberts head an all star-cast featuring the most talented ladies of Hollywood Kirsten Dunst as Betty Warren, Julia stiles as Joan brandwyn, and Maggie Gyllenhal as Giselle levy.([www.monaalisa.smile.com](http://www.monaalisa.smile.com).4/22/2006).

*Mona Lisa Smile* is a story about women in the post era (1950's) who were brought up with marriage is their final destination; that being an ideal wife is the role they were born to fill. In this movie Katherine was described as independent women, a free spirited and open minded art history lecturer. Katherine teaches at the prestigious Wellesley College where the students can marry while they study. As women their students are free to choose what they want and what they might become. Katherine always encourages her students to think independently and teach them to think, she want to make a change when she comes to Wellesley at the first time. Katherine employs a usual teaching style to impress her students. Through her unorthodox teaching methods Katherine encourage their students to

consider option and not just conform popular taste. Her art history lessons bring a perspective into their lives, challenging them to be themselves.

However when she encourages them to think independently she runs into the most conservative faculty and alumni, including one of her students. When Katherine wants to make a change for her students and set free their mind from social institution and philosophical traditional included the, most conservative alumni, she always collides with the faculty and alumni. Katherine cannot break the rules and the philosophical traditional at Wellesley College, for the traditionalist alumni Katherine is subversive. With intension of not allowing her to continue next year, the alumni over her a conditional extension, which of course, is not agreeable to Katherine.

Considering the idea presented above, it is very interesting to find out Katherine background, motivation, and purposes in rebellion against the faculty and traditional alumni in Wellesley College institution. So, this study is entitled “REBELLION AGAINST THE CONSERVATIVE IN MIKE NEWELL’S *MONA LISA SMILE*. A FEMINIST APPROACH”.

## **B. Literature Review**

As far as the writer knows, the movie of *Mona Lisa Smile* has not been studied yet at least in Solo. It is the first study ever done on this movie.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is “why does Katherine rebel against the established tradition of Wellesley in Mike Newell’s *Mona Lisa Smile*?”

**D. Limitation of the Study**

The analysis is focused on motive and purposes of Katherine rebel's toward the established Wellesley institution based on Feminist perspective.

**E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on the feminist perspective.

**F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits expected in this study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some information that can be used by the other researcher that are interested in analyzing Mike Newell's *Mona Lisa Smile*.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to full fill the requirement for getting the bachelor of education in English department, and expected to enrich the writer's knowledge dealing with literary research feminism in Mike Newell's *Mona Lisa Smile*.

**G. Theoretical Approach**

To analyze, the writer employs feminist perspective. Feminist theories seek to understand the genders nature of virtually all social and institutional

relations. Liberalism constitutes a philosophy based on in the principle of individual liberty, in which every person should be allowed to exercise freedom of choice, unfettered by other public opinion or law (Andersen in Mandell, 1993:5).

The main goal of liberal feminist is female equality with men by extending to women the rights and privileges offered to men such as ending women legal, economic and social dependence upon men, freedom and opportunity in educational training, promoting open competition and enacting laws and public policies that guarantee the equality of choice and equality of opportunity that lead women's status improvement.

## **H. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the study**

This study uses descriptive qualitative method.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is Mike Newell's *Mona Lisa Smile*

### **3. Type of Data and Data Source**

Data are divided in two, primary and secondary data. Primary data source is the VCD from Mike Newell's *Mona Lisa Smile*; published Columbia pictures cooperation. While secondary data are gained from other books and thesis related to the research.

### **4. Technique of Collecting Data**

The method used for collecting data is library research. The first step is watching film and other books or sources that are

connected to the research repeatedly, then finding out the important data and arranging data into several parts based on classification and finally developing data are provided.

## **5. Technique of Analysis Data**

The data are analyzed by using descriptive analysis and hermeneutics.

### **I. Research Paper Organization**

The research is going to be organized into six chapters. Chapter I consists of research background, literature review, problems statements, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory of Feminist Approach and structural elements of movie. Chapter III is the social background in late twentieth and early twentieth first century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the film by describing character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, casting, theme, sound, cinematography *mise en scene* and discussion. Chapter V is the Feminist analysis deals with the problem of the film. Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.